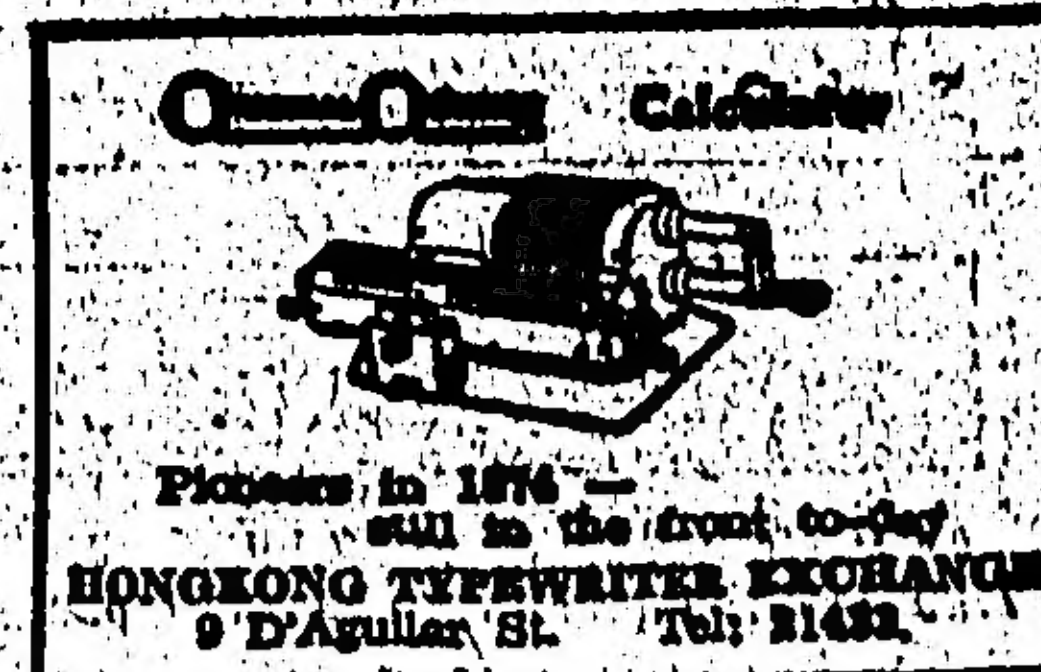


CHINA MAIL

No. 36008

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1954.

Price 30 Cents



COMMENT OF THE DAY

Anxiety Over New Jet Planes

BRITAIN now appears to be thoroughly alarmed at the failure of her new jet fighters to come up to expectations. The Hawker Hunter may yet make the grade next year after modifications have been made to its design. When it eventually enters squadron service in sufficient numbers the R.A.F. will have made considerable progress in its modernisation programme for Fighting Command. It is said that the Hunter will be at least up to the standard of the American Sabre and the Russian MIG; and following on its heels will be the English Electric P 1 jet (exhibited for the first time at this year's Farnborough Air Display) which should put the fighter arm of the R.A.F. well into the forefront of the NATO air forces in Europe. The fate of the Supermarine Swift fighter is still unknown but service test pilots have demanded extensive modifications and there is talk that if this swept-wing jet plane is not ready for operational duties soon, it will be scrapped. Better progress is reported with the design and production of Britain's three V-class bombers, and Vickers Valentia are expected to begin squadron service next year. The British Government has attempted to cut down delays which have kept the new fighters on the design boards and in the factories, for so long by ordering a number of prototypes for flight testing instead of just one or two. But it is obvious that even this policy has not succeeded in getting newly-designed aircraft into operation service quick enough. Now R.A.F. test pilots are visiting the makers' factories to confer with designers in the early stage of development. It means in effect that service test pilots will be able to give advice on design and ask for modifications before the first prototype is completed, not afterwards when the factories are preparing for full-scale production. The Prime Minister, Sir Winston Churchill, has indicated that the Government may reconstitute the Ministry of Aircraft Production to avert delays in the future. But this may not be necessary, for closer liaison between the designer and the test pilot may be all that is required.

TRIUMPH FOR MR FRANCE

Hostile Motion Overwhelmingly Defeated

SUCCESS ASSURED

Paris, Dec. 24. M. Mendes-France scored a notable triumph in favour of the ratification of the Paris agreements shortly after midnight today, when a motion hostile to the Government asking for the adjournment of ratification was overwhelmingly rejected by 430 votes against 181.

The motion sought to adjourn ratification until the French and German Governments had officially agreed on the interpretation they respectively gave to the Saar agreements.

This is the first vote in the four-day debate which has given an indication of the attitude of the Assembly may adopt on the main issue of ratifying the Paris agreements.

The vote came after four days of debate in which doubt, hesitation and timidity about endorsing German rearmament predominated in the French Parliament. But it also came a few hours after the Premier had made his principal speech in favour of the agreements which he negotiated in London and Paris with France's allies last September and October.

Parliamentary observers were unanimous in considering that the Prime Minister's clearcut attitude in demanding that the Assembly avoid any ambiguity and say clearly "Yes" or "No" had influenced the Assembly.

NO MORE DOUBTS
No doubt the vote in favour of ratification itself will be less impressive than this one. But nobody in the French Assembly today had any more doubts that the Paris agreements would be ratified now.

SPEED WANTED
The Premier was believed to be determined to speed matters up and to get all further amendments and the final vote dealt with at the present all-night session.

Should he decide to put an official vote of confidence on the final vote then this would have to take place on Saturday. As matters stood shortly after midnight the Government was hoping to get the ratification vote settled by breakfast time.

Earlier Harold King, a Reuters correspondent, reported: M. Mendes-France has succeeded in changing the atmosphere of gloom and despondency in which the great debate on German rearmament had been taking place for the past four days.

HOPE-LESS SPEECH
Speaking for over an hour, he dealt with the various fears expressed by the numerous critics of the Paris agreements. He made it clear that on information available to him as head of the French Government, German rearmament would take place even if the Assembly rejected the Paris agreements and in that case he said dangers arising to France from German rearmament would be "massively increased."

The Assembly, with the exception of the Communists and members of the Popular Republican Party, applauded his final appeal.

"I am a patriot," he declared, "and I am addressing myself to fellow patriots. To sink our differences can today serve the national interest. Let us make the effort for once. It is only by accident that it is myself who am making this appeal to you. Forget the personality of the Premier and think only of the country."—Reuters.

Moscow Radio Reports Another Purge

FORMER SOVIET SECURITY CHIEF EXECUTED

London, Dec. 23. Moscow radio tonight reported that a former Minister of National Security and three others described as accomplices of Beria had been sentenced to death.

The former Minister was V. S. Abakumov.

The Radio said that Abakumov and other former employees of the Ministry of State Security had carried out tasks set by Lavrenti Beria, the executed Soviet secret police chief, and directed against the Communist Party and the Soviet Government.

Abakumov and three others had been sentenced to be shot. Others accused had been sentenced to various prison terms. The three sentenced to death with Abakumov were named as Leonov, Konarov and Lokachev. No further identification was given.

SUCCEEDED BERIA
Viktor Abakumov first rose to prominence in 1946 when he was appointed to succeed Beria as Minister of State Security.

In October 1952 there were rumours that he had been arrested and shot. His old chief, Beria was executed exactly a year ago—on December 23, 1953.

Moscow Radio said Abakumov committed the same crimes as Beria and took the road of adventure and political provocation.

INVENTED CASES
It declared: "Abakumov invented cases against certain workers in the party and Government machinery and represented them as traitors."

Emergency In Trinidad
Port of Spain, Trinidad, Dec. 23. A state of emergency has been proclaimed in the capital of the British colony of Trinidad to combat the threat of a Christmas blackout from striking electricity workers, who declared "No work pay, no lights."

Sir Hubert Rance, Governor of Trinidad, issued the proclamation last night after unsuccessful attempts to help to settle the dispute over the claims of 200 employees for a year's back pay.

The Trinidad and Tobago electricity functions will now take over distribution of electric power so that Port of Spain's 111,000 inhabitants will not have their supplies cut.

Power failures interrupted the life of the capital yesterday.

Trolley and diesel bus crews employed by the Electricity Board have threatened to stop work and refuse workers were also reported to be discussing strike action.

In contrast the long-standing sugar industry dispute ended with 3,000 workers agreeing to return to work next Tuesday.—Reuters.

Saturday Mail Features

Page 5: "Thirteen Men and a Miracle." C.D.T. Baker-Carr, in another article in the series, "The World's Strangest Stories," tells how a group of miners was a victim of a landslide for nearly three weeks and lived. "Where Are the Billy Graham Converts?" Walter Schwarz searches for the 38,000 people who came forward for salvation at Harringay, Gilles.

Page 6: "Ghosts Club." M. A. R. A. Allingham, Mary Pitt and Lord Dunsany tell their shiver tales to Nancy Spain. "Let the Children Believe in Santa Claus," advises Elizabeth Fakenham. Tom Slacey, old Etonian turned explorer, sends another report of his discoveries in Africa.

Page 7: "Secrets of International Crime." Further tales from the archives of Interpol, the international police organisation, by A. J. Forester.

Page 8: "Body Snatchers Unlimited." Mary Hewitt writes of the achievements of a remarkable American air rescue squadron. A bride for the fifth time still hopes to be happy. Evelyn Ross presents a profile of Sylvia Hawks, former wife of (among others) Douglas Fairbanks Sr. and Clark Gable. "Top of the Bill Christmas." Britain's favourite entertainers choose their "most memorable."

Page 12: "Christmas Thoughts in Clanging Discords." Sir Beverley Baxter, MP, reminds us of the eternal message of Christmas.

President Bows To Army Demand

Quito, Dec. 23. President Jose Maria Velasco Ibarra of Ecuador gave in to Army pressure and dismissed his Minister of Economy today when troops seized the Ministry of Communications and cut off service between the capital city and the rest of the country.

President Velasco Ibarra flew to the Port of Guayaquil this morning as tension between the Army and the Executive mounted. He announced from there that he would accept the resignation of the Economy Minister, Jaime Nebot, charged by the armed forces with insulting them.

Leading Army officers flew to Guayaquil tonight to demand that President Velasco Ibarra also dismiss the Interior Minister, Camilo Ponce Henríquez, for the same reason.

Senor Velasco Ibarra flew to Guayaquil, Ecuador's leading seaport, after first rejecting a demand by the Defence Minister, Reinaldo Caren Donoso, that he dismiss Senor Nebot. His reversal on Nebot cooled the political tension somewhat here, but the situation remained confused.—United Press.

BAT CALIM TO BE RETURNED

United Nations, N.Y., Dec. 23. Egypt will release the Israeli freighter "Bat Calim" and her crew, the Egyptian delegation to the United Nations said today in a letter addressed to the Security Council.

The crew will be released on January 1 next, but the date for handing over of the freighter has not yet been announced.

The freighter was seized by the Egyptian authorities while sailing through the Suez Canal in September, and the Israeli Government made an immediate protest to the Security Council.—France-Press.

Board Of Inquiry For Rail Dispute

London, Dec. 23. The Ministry of Labour announced here today that a Board of Inquiry will be set up to study the claims by British rail workers for a 10-shilling-a-week pay increase.

The railwaymen have threatened to strike on January 9, if their demands are not met.

The Ministry's announcement followed an unsuccessful meeting today between the Minister of Labour, Sir Walter Monckton, and railway trade union leaders.—France-Press.

Ike's Christmas Plans
Washington, Dec. 23. President Dwight Eisenhower left by air today for Augusta, Georgia, to spend Christmas there. He was accompanied by Mrs. Eisenhower.—France-Press.

Wild Winter Grips Europe

51 Deaths Reported

DYKES COLLAPSE: 1,700 FLEE FROM RAGING FLOODS

Amsterdam, Dec. 23. Three dykes collapsed tonight before the pounding sea at Ridderkerk, three miles southeast of Rotterdam, driving 1,700 persons inland before the raging flood waters of a savage winter storm.

Water rose to a depth of two and a half feet as, perilously rising tides threatened other points in the lowlands of Holland and Belgium. At least 88 people have died or are missing, 34 of them seamen, in the bitter storm.

Hundreds of persons were reported injured in Germany as the result of falling trees and shattered glass windows. Power lines were down in several parts of Germany. Damage to American planes and Air Force installations near Kaiserslautern was estimated at more than \$125,000.

At least 13 persons are reported dead in Germany.

BRITAIN SURVIVES
At Hasting, on the North Coast of Holland, the authorities announced the dykes and canals withstood the surge of water and most of the danger had passed.

Britain apparently survived the worst of the flood danger when police at Yarmouth on the British East Coast reported that high tide passed at 8 p.m. without any flooding.

At points near Nieuw Voersemeer and Flinaart in Holland, the weakened dykes held but rescue workers evacuated 300 persons as a safety measure.

In downtown Rotterdam, the Maas River poured over its banks and rolled into the Southern part of the city.

TWO SHIPS SINK
At least two ships have been reported with a loss of nearly 40 lives. The 19 crewmen of the Belgian steamer "Henri Dewant" were given up as dead and "probably 15 to 20" sailors drowned when a lifeboat of the Danish ship Gerda Toft capsized.

As the storm battered Europe for the third straight day, flood alerts were sounded in parts of Britain and Holland. Troops were ordered out on disaster patrol. American airmen in Britain stood by to help if needed.

The storm rode down from the bitter North to the accompaniment of wind, rain, snow and hail in a sweep killing an undetermined number of persons.

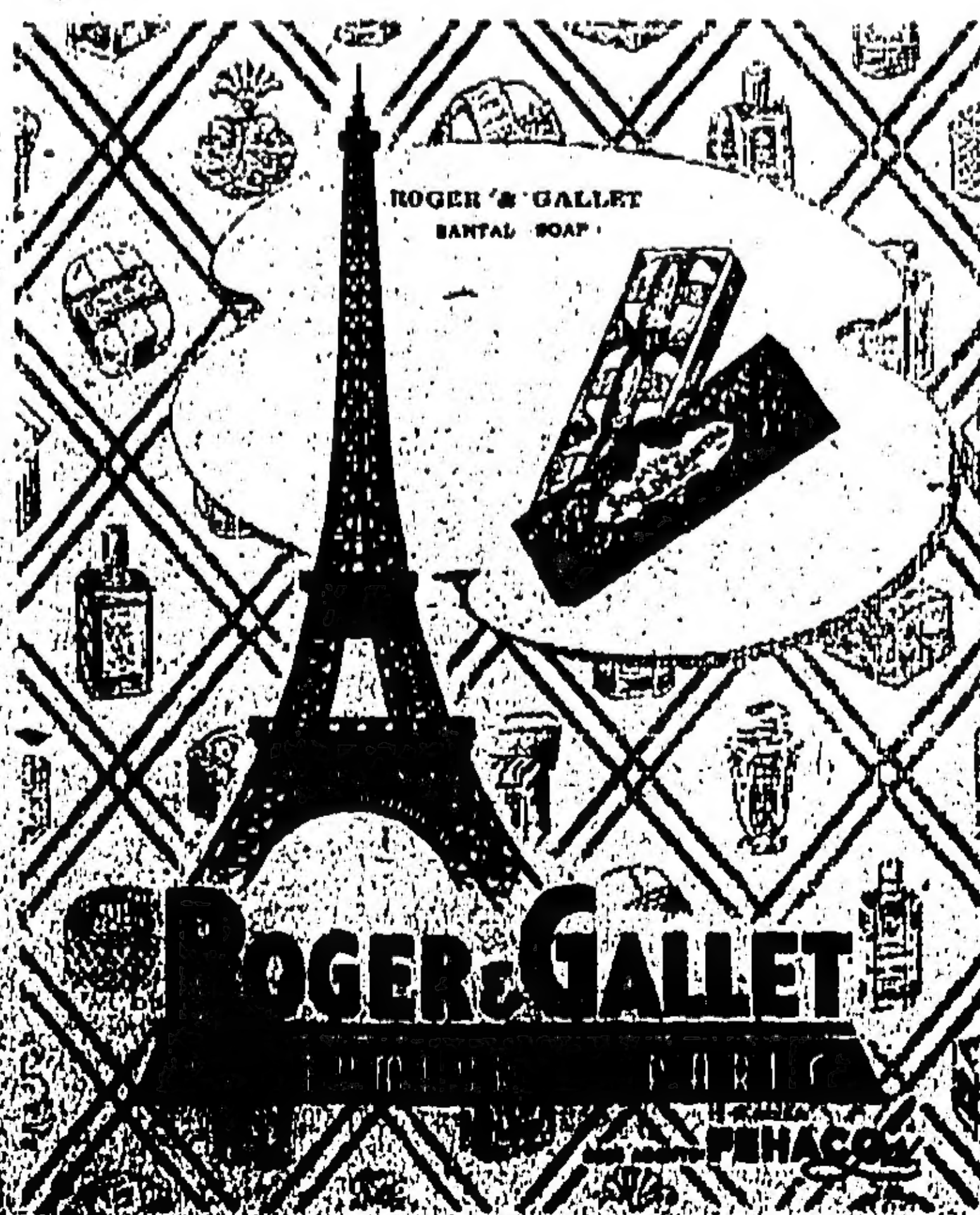
BUILDINGS WRECKED
It beat the European coastal waters to a wild fury. On land, it wrecked buildings, shattered communications, crippled transport. At sea, it took a disastrous toll of ships and seamen.

The British Government has ordered 2,000 troops on duty for emergency rescue service along the 135-mile-long East Anglian coast which fronts on the North Sea.

ENGINES BREAK DOWN
The Dutch freighter "Laurens" and the Norwegian tanker "Havik" collided in the Kiel Canal and the Dutch ship had to call for help.

Winds hurled the French steamer "Sainte" into a lock gate in the approaches to Antwerp, Belgium. Seven small craft were torn from their moorings and cast adrift in Antwerp Harbour.

The British coaster, Woodcock, radiated that its engines had broken down in the North Sea, but it was able to report later that it was making headway after emergency repairs.—United Press.



A Merry Xmas to All



KING'S PRINCESS EMPIRE

At 2.30, 5.15, 7.20 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m. At 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

OPENING TO-DAY,



KING'S

TO-MORROW & SUNDAY—5 SHOWS DAILY
EXTRA SHOW AT 11.30 A.M.

"LIVING IT UP"

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MATINEES

PRINCESS

TO-MORROW 11.30 p.m.
An Indian Picture
Surajya & Shammi
Kapoor in
"SHAMA PARWAN"
(The Flame & the Moth)
with English & Chinese Subtitles
at Regular Prices

SUNDAY 11.00 a.m.
DISNEY'S TECHNICOLOR
CARTOONS
at Reduced Prices

SUNDAY 12.20 p.m.
Tyrone Power in
"CRASH DIVE"
Technicolor
at Reduced Prices

MONDAY 12.20 p.m.
Gary Cooper in
"SPRINGFIELD
RIFLES"
Warnercolor
at Reduced Prices

EMPIRE

TO-MORROW 11.00 a.m.
FOX TECHNICOLOR
CARTOONS

TO-MORROW 12.30 p.m.
Tyrone Power in
"CRASH DIVE"
Technicolor

SUNDAY 11.00 a.m.
FOX TECHNICOLOR
CARTOONS
(New Programme)

SUNDAY 12.30 p.m.
Marilyn Monroe, Jane
Russell in
"GENTLEMEN PREFER
BLONDES"
Technicolor

MONDAY 11.00 a.m.
DISNEY'S TECHNICOLOR
CARTOONS

MONDAY 12.30 p.m.
Richard Widmark in
"NIGHT AND THE CITY"

All at Reduced Prices:
\$1.00 & 70 cts.

LEE GREAT WORLD

DAILY AT 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.

SHOWING TO-DAY



INTERNATIONAL SOCCER
WOLVES v. HUNGARIAN
at LEE THEATRE only

EXTRA PERFORMANCE TO-MORROW
LEE at 12.00 noon. GREAT WORLD at 12.30 p.m.
"THE PURPLE PLAIN"

ROXY & BROADWAY

GRAND OPENING TO-DAY

Owing to length of picture, please note change of times:
At 2.30, 5.10, 7.30 & 9.40 p.m.



ADDED ATTRACTION!
CINEMASCOPE Short Subject
"FLYING TO JISH" in TECHNICOLOR
BROADWAY: 5 Shows To-morrow, Extra Performance
at 12.00 noon
ROXY & BROADWAY: 5 Shows To-morrow, Extra Performance
at 12.00 noon

FILMS—CURRENT AND COMING

By JANE ROBERTS

The KING'S, EMPIRE and PRINCESS have chosen one of the best Martin and Lewis pictures for a long time as their Christmas show. Completely American in treatment, humour and sentiment, it's nevertheless fun for everyone.

Of equally universal appeal is the costume melodrama (I'm not very fond of the word "awashbuckler") at the HOOVER — "Star of India". This theatre will possibly be playing "Crimes of Paris" between "Star of India" and the New Year show "Apache".

"The Black Knight" is at the QUEEN'S and ALHAMBRA, "The Student Prince" at the CAPITOL and LIBERTY and "The Purple Plain" at the LEE and GREAT WORLD.

"Desiree" is showing at the ROXY and BROADWAY.

Martin and Lewis usually manage to combine their crazy doings with an unusual story and "Living It Up" is no exception. The screenplay is adapted from the successful Broadway production, "Hazel Flagg", which in turn was taken from an earlier show in which Frederic March appeared.

The two comedians are a pair of small town boys who take all the city slickers for a ride — unintentionally at first, but as events move too fast for them, they're forced to carry on the deception.

Martin, a doctor who wouldn't allow near an out of condition goldfish, has diagnosed Lewis as suffering from the effects of radio activity and given him only a short time to live.

Along comes a newspaper reporter with the idea of granting (with great publicity of course) the last wish of the "dying" man. Janet Leigh persuades her newspaper to finance a trip to New York for Lewis, with every thrill in the book thrown in for good measure.

By the time Martin has discovered where his diagnosis went wrong, it's impossible to back out of the situation and with an "in for a penny, in for a pound" gesture he decides to help his friend take advantage of the big city's interest.

The crazy pair's doings in New York constitute the main part of the picture.

You'll no doubt have heard of Sherree North who had such a lot of publicity at the time that Marilyn Monroe wasn't doing all that her studio required of her. In this film she dances a number with Lewis that can only be called exuberant.

PUBLIC SPIRITED

"Crimes of Paris" has a lurid-looking press book and appears to be on the lines of the Montesi case that has stirred up so much mud in recent days.

It claims to be based on a case "which shocked the entire city of Paris" and the company filming it states that their intention was to demonstrate how close co-operation between the police and the public can bring about justice, even when confronted by the most skillful of criminals. How public spirited!

The latest American actor to join King Arthur's Court is Alan Ladd. Complete with the page-boy hair-do of the period, black and white costume, and his well known grim look, he can'ters around medieval England avenging wrongs and getting locked up in castle dungeons.



Ann Blyth, Edmund Gwenn and Edmund Purdom in a scene from "The Student Prince".



Napoleon and Desiree (Marlon Brando and Jean Simmons respectively) are watched with apprehension by his brother and her sister in "Desiree".

from all of which he escapes spectacularly, naturally.

Had she really lived in those days I can't help feeling that Patricia Medina would have succumbed to pneumonia, dressed as she is in the picture. Draughty old castles are not the places for plunging neckline. However, she looks a dream and that's all that matters in a film of this kind.

The attractive voice of Elton Hayes is heard in a ballad he wrote himself and other music is played by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra.

You'll see various other well known character actors in "The Black Knight", among them André Morell who played the part of the servant so well in "Elephant Walk", piercing eyed John Laurie and the television star Peter Cushing.

RURITANIA

Sigmund Romberg's operetta, "The Student Prince" has been performed innumerable times but, as she did in "Rose Marie", Ann Blyth seems to give it a new lift.

sequences in which Edmund Purdom is required to sing.

Two stars almost make off with the acting honours in "The Purple Plain": Maurice Denham as the jussy little wingless wonder who eventually cracks up, and Brenda de Banzie, the formidable Scottish missionary with the humanity of a saint.

Some of the best scenes in the picture are the acid exchanges between Gregory Peck as the very gallant Squadron Leader and Maurice Denham.

H. E. Bates, the author, having been in the RAF during the war, has an excellent insight into the relationship that would exist between these two.

Peck, ensnaring by nature, has been made even more careless of his personal safety by the death of his wife in an air raid. He is also a flier, making an even wider gulf between the non-flying Flight Lieutenant and himself.

When the aircraft of which Peck is the pilot, Denham the passenger and Lyndon Brook the navigator (very good, this boy) crashes in the jungle, their essential difference in mental make-up comes to the surface.

By this time Peck has met a soft-spoken Burmese girl who has given him a new interest in life and it's thoughts of her that spur him on to making the superhuman effort of getting the three of them back to base.

Before leaving "The Purple Plain" I must mention Bernard Lee. At the beginning of the picture I thought he was miscast as the RAF doctor and that he is much more at home as an NCO. Before it was over, I changed my mind and give him full marks for a very sincere performance.

NOT FIERY ENOUGH

The chief difficulty that must have faced the makers of "Desiree" was how to make both Marlon Brando and Michael Rennie sympathetic characters without sacrificing the interest to be derived from their conflicting ideologies.

The despotic Napoleon could never have anything in common with Bernadotte, the man of peace. Except a love for the same woman and in order to paint the former in more glowing colours than he would seem to deserve it's been necessary to make Bernadotte rather a cold man.

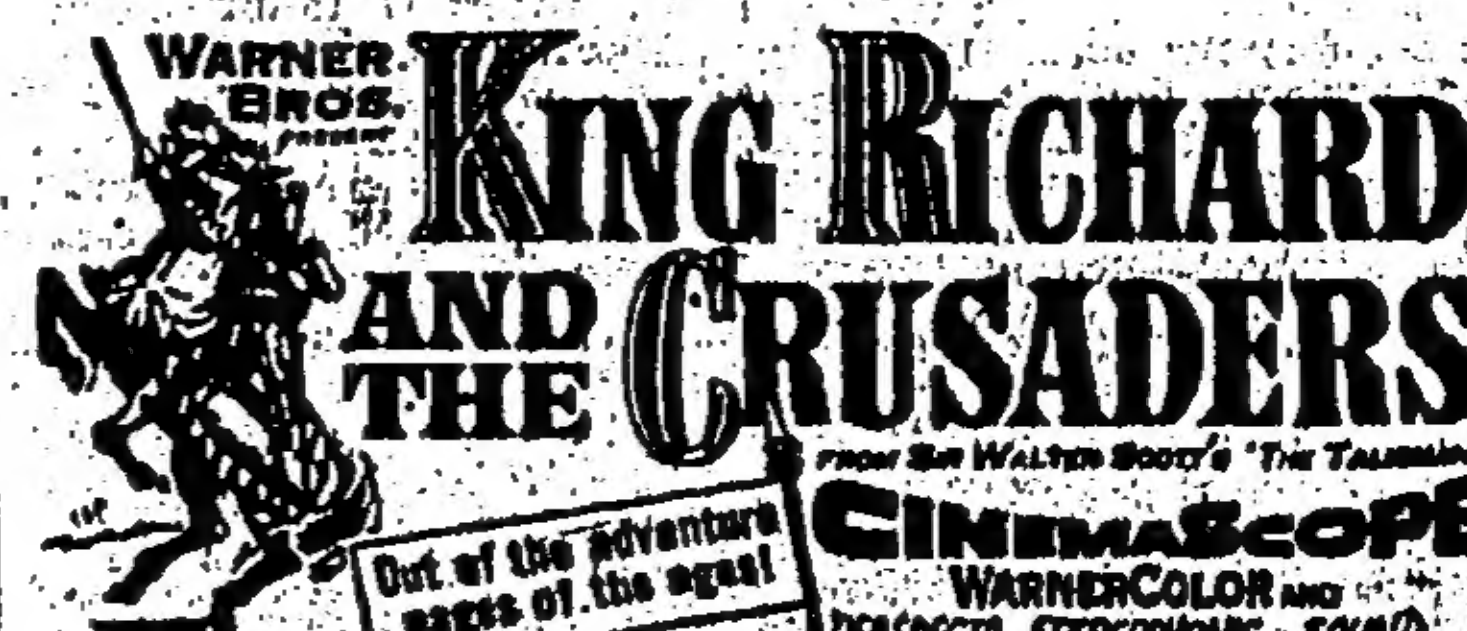
Now don't point out to me that either of them were supposed to be this or that in real life. I'm thinking entirely in terms of what makes an interesting picture and for this there must be sufficient contrast between the main characters to enable them to stand out definitely, one from the other.

Somehow the gentleness with which Brando plays the very definite Napoleon puts him too close to the serious Bernadotte and although I always seem to be complaining of all black and all white characterisations on the screen, in this case I would have preferred a more fiery Napoleon in order to allow Bernadotte a few more degrees of warmth.

In spite of everything, if I could see only one film over the holidays, I would choose this one. It has enough British accents to make me feel at home, Brando and Rennie are always good to look at, however much I may disagree with their conception of a part, and Jean Simmons is perfectly cast as Desiree. In addition, there's the indestructible beauty and poise of Merle Oberon as the Empress Josephine.

Happy filmgoing.

RITZ SHOWING TO-DAY



TO-DAY ONLY MAJESTIC AT 2.30, 5.20, 7.30 & 9.30 P.M.



TO-MORROW THE FORTUNE HUNTER

QUEEN'S

5 SHOWS TO-MORROW

"THE BLACK KNIGHT"

EXTRA PERFORMANCE AT 11.30 A.M.

QUEEN'S & ALHAMBRA

2.30, 5.15, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m. 2.30, 5.30, 7.30 & 9.30 p.m.

SHOWING TO-DAY



QUEEN'S

SPECIAL MORNING SHOWS

AT 11.30 A.M.

DEC. 26th — SUNDAY

Columbia's

ALL-NEW VARIETY PROGRAM

(3 STOOGES — COLOR CARTOONS)

DEC. 27th — MONDAY

Walt Disney's Technicolor

"PETER PAN"

AT REDUCED PRICES!

CAPITOL LIBERTY

THE HOME OF THE WORLD'S FUNNIEST MAN!

3 SHOWS TO-DAY

AT 2.30, 5.30 & 7.30 P.M.

ON PANORAMIC SCREEN

A NEW UPROARIOUS ROLE IN THE CAREER OF THE WORLD'S FUNNIEST MAN!



GALA PREMIERE
TO-NIGHT AT 9.30 P.M.

THE ROYAL, RISQUE, RIOTOUS ROMANCING OF

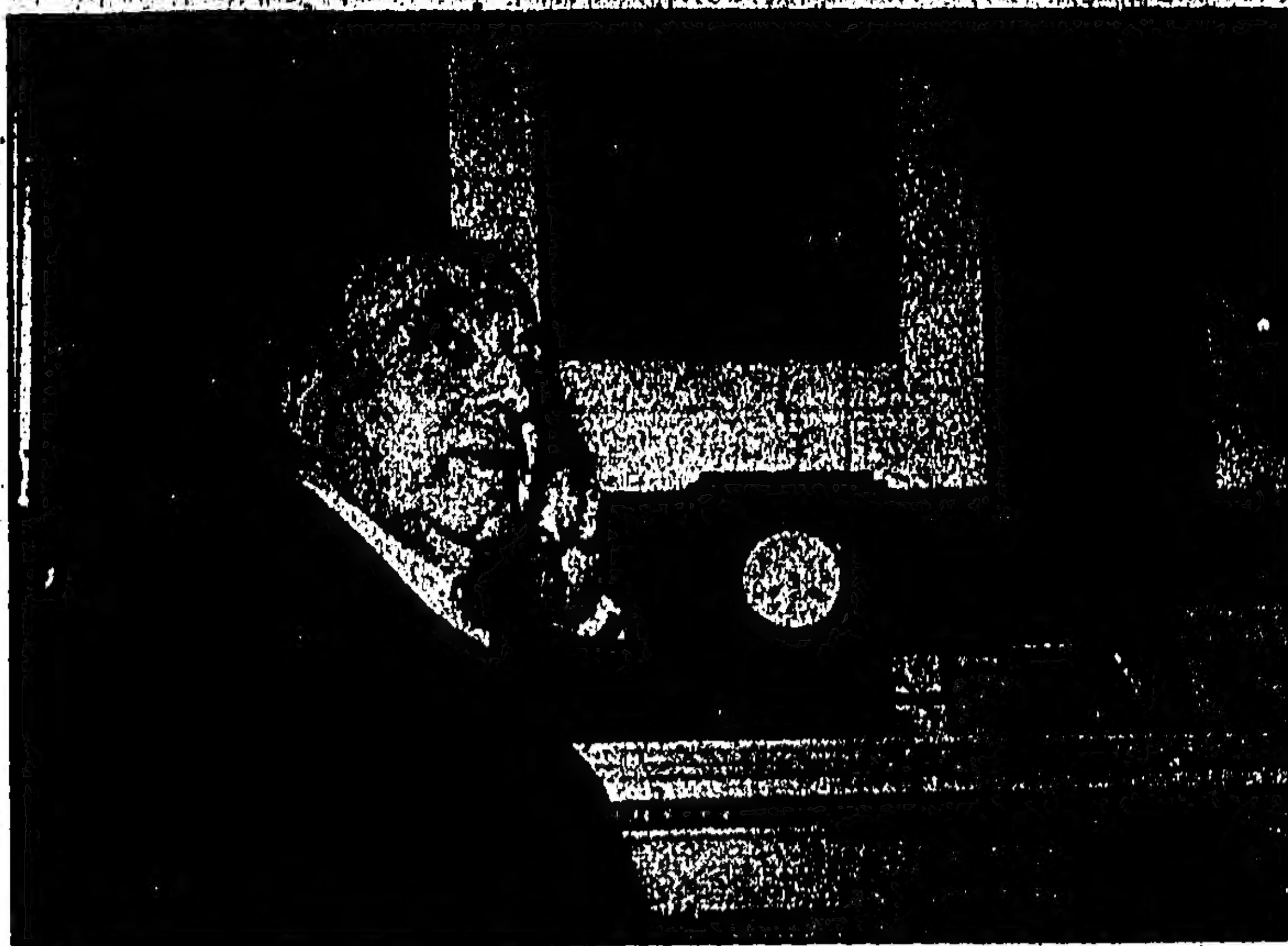


The Pickwick Papers
January 12, 1955
9.15 p.m.
at the Lee Theatre
Clare Keswick
Chairman
Premiere

HOMESIDE PICTORIAL



HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN, accompanied by the Dean of Westminster and followed by the Duke of Edinburgh, leaves Westminster Abbey after attending the British and Foreign Bible Society's thanksgiving service. (Express)



PROFESSOR Albert Edward Richardson, 74-year-old architect, who has been elected President of the Royal Academy in succession to Sir Gerald Kelly. He once described the modern age as that of nylon, pylon and skyron. "Rome in its decline, with its orgies and entertainments, is mild compared with the vulgarity of today," he said. (Express)



PRINCESS MARGARET attended the performance of "Cinderella on Ice" in aid of the Young Men's Christian Association at the Empress Hall, London. The Princess is being presented with a bouquet by Miss Betty Van Lare, who is from the Gold Coast. (Express)

RIGHT: The largest postwar parade of Britain's Home Guard took place the other day at Wembley. Seven hundred men representing all the Home Guard battalions in Middlesex, together with the 6th Heriot Battalion, took part. Here Lt-Gen. Sir Francis Festing, GOC-in-C Eastern Command, inspects the men. (Army News)



LEFT: The Countess of Dalketh, daughter of Mr and Mrs John McNeill of Hongkong, snapped at a party given in London to celebrate actor A. E. Matthews' 85th birthday. (Express)

PICTURED here is underwater explorer and photographer, Hans Hass, with his wife, Lotte. Together they attended the London premiere of their film, "Under The Caribbean," and they are demonstrating one of the underwater cameras they used in the film's making. (Express)



THE famous old sailing clipper, Cutty Sark, launched at Dumbarton in 1869, making her last voyage, under tow from the East India Dock to her permanent berth at Greenwich.



SOME of the 2,000 magnificent white turkeys being reared for the Christmas market at Monkton Court Farm, at Minster-in-Thames, Kent. An employee is seen carrying a protesting bird back to the flock.



"ALADDIN" is this year's Chelsea Palace Pantomime. The Mayor of Chelsea, Councillor Guy Edmiston, gave a reception the other day to introduce the cast. Here is Violet Pretty, one of the beauties, stepping into a baby car to take her to the party.



THE 17th Independent Coy, WRAC, has won the Eastern Command Inter-Unit Rifle Competition at Hounslow for the fourth time. Two members of the team shooting their rifles. They are the only ones who scored 100 in the 100 yds. range. (Army News)

NANCY Aw, It's Only A Poem

By Ernie Bushmiller



In the pitch-black of the earth
they fought starvation—and madness
... for twenty dreadful days

DEEP in the bowels of the earth men were working in the twisting galleries of one of the largest coal mines in northern France. Suddenly there was a violent tremor followed instantly by a shattering explosion. A searing blast rushed through miles of underground roadways leaving death and wreckage in its path. Over 1,000 miners were doomed in this, the worst colliery disaster the world has ever known.

It was on March 10, 1906, at Courrières, near Lens in the Pas de Calais, that those working above ground level felt the earth shake. They heard the dull roar, and saw a mass of wrecks, smoke and fumes of poison gas driving back would-be rescuers. Fire-damp, the miner's greatest dread, had struck again.

Then an astonishing step was taken by the engineers in charge of the mine. Only two days later they abandoned all attempts at rescue. They felt sure the raging furnace of flame, as well as poison gas, would have killed all below.

Nearly three weeks later a workman near the pithead rushed to one of the engineers shouting: "There are 13 corpses still alive—and they want to come up!" The cage reached the top as a wondering crowd surged round. The 13 gaunt, filthy and emaciated, staggered forward. Not a bystander dared speak until one of the "ghosts" broke the silence with a strident laugh which sent shudders through every listener. It was Neny, one of the leaders of the men from the dead.

The "ghosts" had survived, without proper food or water, in a world of subterranean darkness over 1,000ft. below the surface for a period of 20 days. Yet there was to follow an even more incredible chapter in the drama of Courrières.

Those who survived buried alive owed their safety to two men, Henri Neny and Charles Pruvost, both reliable and experienced miners. At the time of the explosion Neny was working in a gallery 1,250ft. down, some way from the bottom of No. 3 shaft. He felt the blast of hot air which flung him to the floor and knocked him unconscious.

He came to in darkness and heard the groans of dying workmates. His legs were in pain and he called out for help. Four men answered his call. They were relatively uninjured. All of them had obeyed the "no matches below ground" rule and they were without a lamp that would work. But at least the air was breathable and there was no fire anywhere near. The explosion had occurred some distance away.

During the rest of that day they took stock of their position. The only food they had—meat sandwiches—was eaten to help them recover from the shock. They began to explore in the utter darkness with Neny in the lead. Everywhere they stumbled into great falls of earth, shattered pit-props and timber. They were cut off.

Without light it was difficult, but they continued groping round. Everywhere they stumbled over dead bodies of their comrades. Neny insisted that each body be searched for more food and bottles of cold coffee which he then rationed out.

Now and then they met pockets of choking gas, and in their desperate attempt to hurry away were often badly bruised and cut. Time meant nothing to them. Neny had a watch but could not see it.

On the third day a voice rang out, echoing along the narrow corridors of the mine: "We are saved!" It was Pruvost, with another party of seven, who had mistaken Neny's for a rescue squad. The two met and shook hands.

When they realised that no one had been saved the silence was a dull and strangled. Neither party had any food left and one of them, a boy called Victor Martin, began sobbing.

His legs were growing more and more painful. Sleep was impossible. If a man dozed he would come round with a cry or a groan—a terrifying sound for the others.

On the fourth or fifth day Neny decided that it was time to move on again. Pruvost knew the mine better than anyone



THIRTEEN MEN —and a MIRACLE

else, since he had worked in it for over 30 years. He and Neny worked out a plan to climb to the level of No. 3 shaft, 150ft. above them. Before leaving they made a final search for food. At the far end of the gallery they found a piece of dry and dirty bread. It was enough for each man to have a single mouthful.

One by one they began the steep and narrow ascent of an airshaft, and at last all reached the top. Suddenly Pruvost stopped. Between them and the

C. D. T. BAKER-CARR

Tells another of the World's Strangest Stories

shaft bottom was a barrier of corpses, piled high to the roof. The bodies were lifted aside, and they moved on holding hands to keep together. They came to the stables and more dead horses. They filled pockets with grain and ate some while they had a short rest. But the awful stench drove them on, picking a way between the narrow-gauge railway for the coal-tuns. These confirmed belief that they were on the right route.

Neny and Pruvost noticed that the air was "dead." The whole shaft was blocked by a huge fall of earth. The boys sobbed openly, and even the men shed tears of disappointment.

One of the men muttered: "It's no use. We may as well die here." Neny and Pruvost alone refused to give up, and hope is always infectious. Back they went to the men for more oats, but their mouths

were almost too dry to allow them to chew. Pruvost said he could find a way to No. 2 shaft. It was more than a kilometre away but it was a last hope. With hardly enough strength left to crawl, the exhausted men moved forward once more. Everywhere they came across dead miners and the work was beyond description.

Worn out, they stopped for rest, even though sleep was now a thing of the past. As Neny lay down he felt something un-

der the leadership of Pruvost and his uncanny sense of direction. Neny now had a fierce longing to see his wife and children once more before he died. But his legs were getting worse and as he dropped to the ground he told the others to go on and leave him.

"No, it is one or all—if you stay, we stay," said Pruvost. "Neny, you will not let your weakness kill these boys?" The pain-racked miner crawled on. Suddenly came a breath of fresh air and a light, swinging in the distance. They rose from their knees and actually huilt-run half-staggered forward.

The man holding the lamp was one of those who had descended after an interval to fight the fires still raging in parts of the mine. He shivered and pointed silently. After words he said that he thought they were ghosts come to meet him, rising out of that mass tomb.

Reaching daylight the 13 collapsed from exhaustion and being blinded by the unaccustomed light. They were taken to hospital, where all but one recovered. Young Victor Martin died; dominant consumption had been aggravated by his long and dreadful ordeal.

The day they came up was March 30, but the miracle of survival was not yet ended. That same day a boy named Noel heard the bell ring for the cage in No. 4 shaft close by his home at Sallaumines. No one

believed him, although he was insistent.

The mouth of the shaft had been blocked up with planks and then covered with straw and earth after the explosion. On April 3 these were removed and the following day Auguste Berthon was brought up alive. He had spent 25 days alone in the mine of death.

Berthon had been with a gang of men when the explosion occurred. All were unharmed. In vain they searched for a way out. Exhausted, Berthon begged his friends to let him die where he had fallen. They went on — to death. He fell asleep and woke refreshed. Groping about he found several bodies and took what food and drink there was.

Alone in that hollow silence, broken only by ominous cracks from a straining roof, most men would have gone mad. Fortunately Berthon had no imagination. He slept for most of the time, conserving his strength for almost certain death.

His main worry was the onslaught by hordes of rats who fought him for his food and bit him terribly on the arms and legs. It was the rats that drove him in search of the shaft.

When he reached it and his ring on the cage bell went unanswered he made up his mind to die. The next day, when he had been rescued, he said he thought he had been down in the pit for "about a week."

The death-roll came to approximately 1,240—only those 14 men and boys survived the world's worst colliery disaster.

WHERE ARE THE BILLY GRAHAM CONVERTS?

WALTER SCHWARZ searches for the 36,000 people who came forward at Harringay to answer the call of the American crusaders

LONDON. I HAVE been looking for 36,000 people. They are the Billy Graham converts, who "came forward" to register a decision for Christ after hearing the American evangelist preach at Harringay.

That was eight months ago.

Then, each one signed a card. Today, the cards are stacked in the offices of the Billy Graham Follow-up Department in Kingsway.

A duplicate of every card was sent to the local vicar or minister of the applicant's choice. The vicars still have the duplicates.

But where are the converts themselves? Are they swelling the churches of Greater London, or have they gone back on their pledge?

The Crusade organisers cannot give the answer. "We have kept no statistics of success," says the director of the Follow-up, the Rev. Bruce Reed. "We are far too busy sending out circulars and answering inquiries to count up how many are still with us."

Leaders of the Church have differing views. Says the Bishop of Barking, prominent supporter of Dr. Graham: "I have been deeply impressed by the continued success of the Crusade today."

Says Dr. Donald Soper, the Methodist Minister at Kingsway Hall, an expert on evangelism: "The crusade was an emotional manifestation that has not touched outsiders at all."

No one can quote figures. In the crusading world, opinion is plentiful but facts are scarce. There is nothing for it but to take a look at the churches. Not the selected showpieces of evangelism, but the ordinary parishes of average sinners.

ring? (that is, how many cards did you receive?)

2—How many of these were already regular churchgoers simply "reaffirming" their faith, and how many were "outsiders" or genuine converts?

3—How many of the genuine converts are still going to church?

Few of the vicars had to consult their cards. They had the answers off pat. Here are my total figures for these 20 Anglican parishes, with a combined population of 420,000.

336 came forward at Harringay. That makes a fair sample of the Billy Graham total.

226 of these were regular churchgoers before. That is, two-thirds. Only one-third (110) can be called converts.

35 of the genuine converts are still going to the church of their choice. That is, about one in every three of the genuine converts.

Listen to what some of the vicars said. The Rev. W. H. Smith, Vicar of Holy Trinity, East Finchley: "I organised coach parties to Harringay. In the end I received 14 cards. Only nine were newcomers. Half a dozen of these were schoolchildren; none comes to church."

The Rev. E. Ripper, Vicar of St. James's, Muswell Hill: "I am perfectly satisfied. I had 38 cards, 15 of them from outsiders, and 10 of these are still with me. Their average age is 17. Billy Graham has produced a new spirit among the young."

The Rev. D. Stradwick, Vicar of St. Clement's, East Dulwich: "The net result has been nil. I had 17 cards; 16 of them were old faithfuls. I have seen nothing of the solitary newcomers."

The Rev. P. Brasell, Vicar of St. Paul's, Harringay: "It was right on Billy Graham's doorstep. I got 60 cards. Four-fifths of them were from children."

CONVERSION RECORD OF TWENTY LONDON PARISHES

PARISH—with population

All Saints, Edgware, 35,000

St. Gabriel & All Saints, Fimble, 30,000

Old church forward

Out-aiders

Still going

PARISH—with population

All Saints, Edgware, 35,000

St. Gabriel & All Saints, Fimble, 30,000

Christ Church, Clapham, 25,000

St. Michael, Wimbledon, 25,000

St. James, Ealing, 24,000

St. Giles, Clerkenwell, 23,000

Old church forward

Out-aiders

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PARISH—with population

All Saints, Edgware, 35,000

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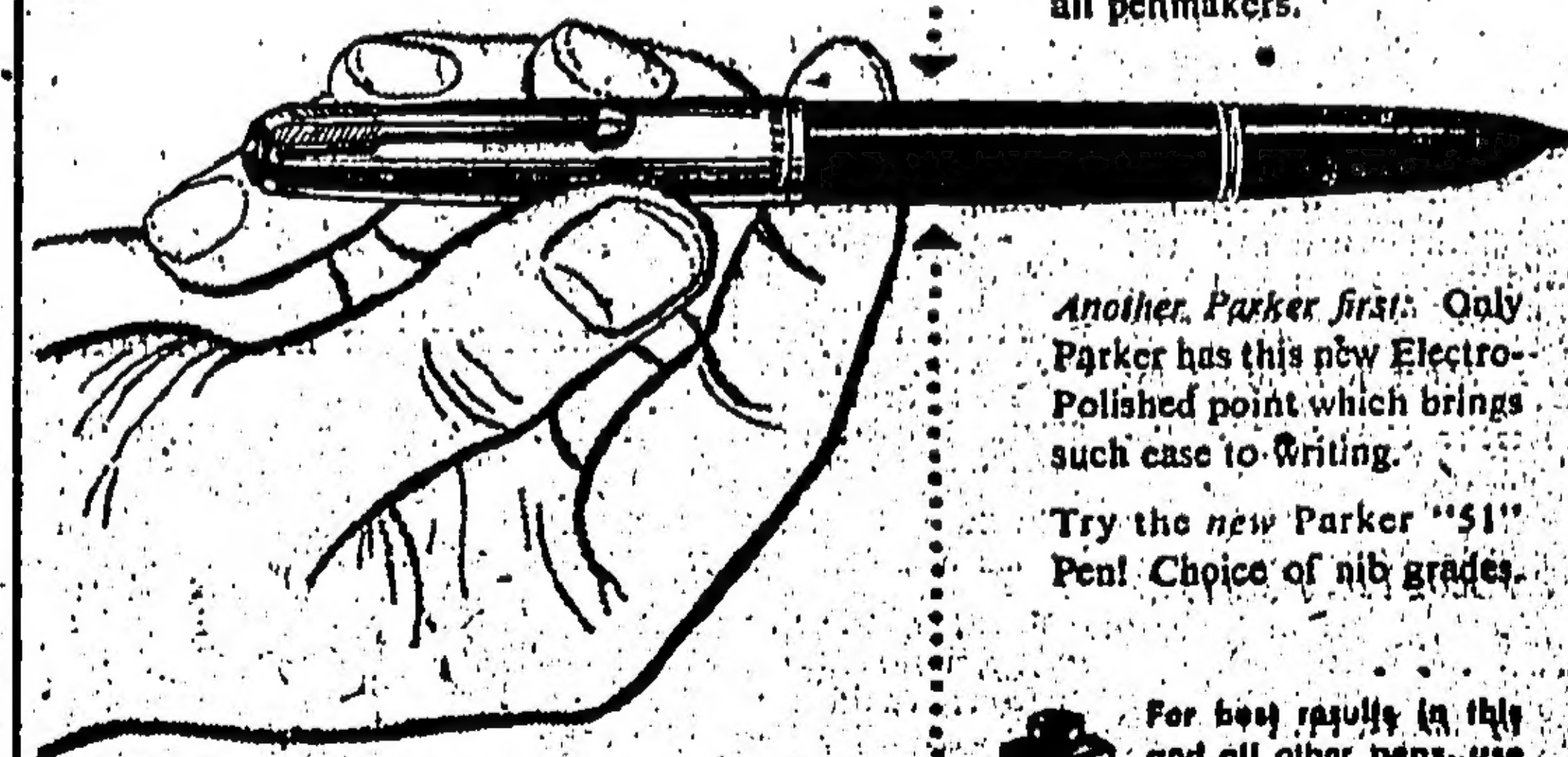
St. Michael, Wimbledon, 25,000

St. James, Ealing, 24,000

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"Now for peace sake—don't tell the Missus we've had a drink."

London Express Service

Victim's Cries Were Drowned With Music

By A. J. FORREST

FRAULEIN ILSE G., fluent in French despite her Munich upbringing and well attuned to Paris's naughty gaieties, plied until quite recently a thriving trade in the bars of the Champs Elysees. There, as a seller of morphine, she was wined and dined by drug addicts, potential addicts and traffickers. They had merely to contact her to buy as much dope as they pleased—at her price.

One day a new customer appeared. Satisfied with his self-introduction, she liked his debonaire worldliness. While they drank together, her chief male companion, an Iranian subject, as deeply implicated in the narcotics business as she was, joined them and they got down to trade.

"We give you," said the girl, "two kilograms of morphine, because we much like you." She was now drinking her seventh liqueur. "And we let you have it," she added archly, "very cheap—for 8,200,000 francs."

It seemed a pretty stiff price, over £3,000 for just over 4 lb. of dope. But he agreed to pay. "We must collect the stuff in N's car," she said, referring to the Iranian, who ushered the two of them into his Studebaker and drove off to a shady spot in a quiet boulevard.

Not Clinched

There the 4 lb. of dope changed hands, and the newcomer parted with his francs. But the deal was not quite clinched. "Would you mind driving me home?" he asked. "I don't like to carry about such treasure in public transport—you never know."

He gave them an address, and the Iranian—to his horror—found his car suddenly surrounded by a posse of Parisian police, who grabbed the two traffickers. Their agent, taking care of the dope, then went off to his office to write a detailed report.

Women, in the international underworld, rarely play dominant roles. They are only the necessary link between the men who are the real power.

teamwork, ruthless aggression, or organising ability to conduct large-scale crime operations.

Where women belong to gangs, however, Interpol marks them down, mostly as girl friends of individual criminals. Some as such get to learn important secrets. As their charms age, so their knowledge becomes increasingly dangerous to themselves. Others, exploiting their attractiveness, may be useful to trap unwary tourists.

Nevertheless, in the field of murder women can hold their own with the most devilish male killers ever known. For preference, they use poison. But not always. Frau Elisa-

The FULL, authentic inside story of INTERPOL, the organisation which fights international crime all over the world, which has been the means of bringing thousands of criminals to justice. Written with the full co-operation of the staff of INTERPOL.

both Kusian of Berlin, now serving a life term for double murder, killed entirely for monetary gain and used a particularly vicious method of dispatching her victims.

Getting into conversation near the Berlin Zoo with Hermann Seidelmann, a commercial traveller, who lived in the Soviet Zone, she found him anxious to exchange some eastern marks for west marks. This, she said, she would do if he would meet her at her flat that same evening. He accepted.

He arrived punctually and she ushered him into a well furnished parlour. There, after a few minutes, she removed his coat, the atmosphere being deceptively warm and cosy while she made some coffee. She had switched on the wireless, claiming that she loved loud music.

As he sat with his back to her, she moved into the room, her hands on her hips, and said: "Now for peace sake—don't tell the Missus we've had a drink."

out a piece of clothes-line, already fastened into a noose and in an instant had slipped it over his neck and was pulling it tight with all her strength.

Her murderous assault made Seidelmann topple sideways off his chair. He actually rolled on top of her. But the 25-year-old nurse, divorced mother of three children, clung to her stranglehold with demonic power, and strangled him.

Then, with a terrifying calmness, she proceeded to dispose of his body, severing it with surgical skill into portions, which she subsequently dumped among ruins in both east and west sectors of Berlin.

To do this she borrowed a suitcase from a friend. When she returned, it there were blotches of blood on its lining. She apologised for them, explaining that she had used the case to carry home a number of skinned rabbits.

She used all the money she found on him, hid some of his clothes, and disposed of the rest in the hospital where she worked.

So, although his remains were soon afterwards discovered, and identified, not a clue emerged as to Seidelmann's killer. The nurse almost certainly would have escaped detection altogether had she not killed again only three weeks after her first diabolical success.

She adopted precisely the same technique on Frau Dorothea Merten, a typewriter manufacturer who she lured to her flat, and then strangled her.

chine. She, too, put her lips to a fateful cup of coffee, and was viciously strangled with a noosed piece of rope from the same line.

Hardly was the woman's body on the floor, before Frau Kusian's lover knocked. "Just a moment," she cried. "Stay outside while I light the Christmas candles. Then the scene will enchant you." She lit the candles—it was Christmas Eve, 1949—then pushed Frau Dorothea Merten's body under the bed.

Tell-tale Clues

Fortunately, Frau Merten, before she disappeared—she, too, was dumped in bits in various debris-littered hiding places—had informed friends about her typewriter dealings. The police called on Frau Kusian and found tell-tale clues, including garments belonging to both her victims. Had not a new German law been introduced only a few weeks before Frau Kusian's trial rescinding the death penalty, she would undoubtedly have been executed.

Helene B., a woman of completely different character, of a timorous nature, mentally and physically, preferred to kill by poison. But she did it on a grand scale. Before justice caught up with her, she had, the authorities estimated, murdered five husbands, two of her children, and was charged, in addition, at her trial, with thirteen attempted murders.

This monstrous record began in 1935, when she mixed rat poison in some milk and gave it to her three-year-old daughter, Hilde. The child fell ill with paralysis. Her hair fell out. Within a week she was dead. The doctor attending her never suspected foul play, but Helene B., keeping her poison secret to herself, decided to use it to pay off her grudge against mankind.

Romantic Lure

She felt aggrieved because four of her children had died at an early age, she because her husband, who she loved as she loved her, treated her badly, often beating her, and never allowing her sufficient house-keeping money. They paid for it on their death-bed, their bodies semi-paralysed, their hair falling out.

When sentenced to death, this strange woman, born in 1907, accepted her fate calmly.

An Italian woman, Leonarda Cianculli, 46, was sentenced to the same punishment in the same court. She was a widow, and her husband, a man of some means, had died of a heart attack.

SECRETS OF INTERNATIONAL CRIME

Inquisitive hope of ever getting husband until she met Leonarda Cianculli. Then, with calculated peridy, this brazen woman, still in her forties, suggested that she knew of a serious-minded gentleman, a wealthy friend of hers, who needed someone to comfort him in his declining years. Perhaps, she would like to visit him? He lived, she said, at Pola, a town some distance away. The spinster, envisaging an unexpected fulfilment to her dreams of marriage, assented.

To heighten the imposture, the Cianculli woman began a fictitious correspondence, writing in the name of her mythical friend, Faustina, so building up an atmosphere of romance and marriage. Finally the spinster, overjoyed at the way things were panning out, came to bid fond farewell to Cianculli. She had dyed her grey hair blonde and sold her house.

The Cianculli woman, anticipating the spinster's visit, had a cauldron already boiling on her stove. While Faustina still survived, she persuaded her to sit down and write some correspondence in advance, as if from Pola, saying how happy she was in her new situation, all arrangements for her marriage having been concluded. The spinster was practically illiterate, but Leonarda guided her hand, and post-dated the letters, also a few postcards, written in similar vein, to her few friends in Corrozzio.

Unutterable Curse

Then, before the ink was dry, the murderess struck. Sneaking from his hiding place, hatched in the cage already sharpened, she crashed it down, with fatal force, into the spinster's skull. Then, with incredible speed, she covered her remains, and disposed of them in the steaming soap-making cauldron.

Her twenty-year-old student son—proved innocent at her trial—was then sent to Pola and, on her orders, he posted the victim's reassuring letters and postcards. Her atrocious crime yielded the murderess about 30,000 lire, which in 1939, represented a very tidy nest-egg.

Her next victim, a 55-year-old former schoolteacher, Francesco Savi, was disposed of in precisely the same manner. But this killing yielded her a profit of merely 9,000 lire. So, within three months of her original crime, she embarked her third and last victim to her agonising end.

The same deadly sequence of events followed. But fortunately, the Cianculli woman, who had been a widow, was now a widow again, and her husband, a man of some means, had died of a heart attack.

investigations were transferred to the Emilia criminal bureau, she could not escape.

Sentenced to thirty years' imprisonment, plus three years in a criminal asylum for the insane, this 41-year-old woman, while awaiting her unsuccessful appeal, wrote more than 1,000 pages of memoirs. She claimed that life had used her harshly. Of her twelve children, eight had died. The others, she feared, would also die prematurely, largely because her mother, just before dying, had laid an unutterable curse on her.

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Always Rescuing Someone

BODY-SNATCHERS UNLIMITED

LIEUT.-COLONEL RAYMOND CARLETON, a tall, rangy, soft-voiced American, is a man who could qualify as Britain's top Universal Aunt. He is a Texan — a modest Texan, ma'am, but I'm not bashful! — the acting commander of the Ninth Air Rescue Group of the American Air Force.

And it is his unit at Manston Airfield, in Kent, the 66th A.R.S. (Air Rescue Squadron) who have made A.R.S. stand for "Always Rescuing Somebody."

Icy waves

A Manston amphibian picked up Meteo pilot Brian Cross when he bled out of his aeroplane over the Thames estuary and floundered his parachute.

A few weeks ago a Manston helicopter crew pulled Ronald Merton from the icy waves of the wrecked South Goodwin lightship. Before that

A Texan colonel leads the American Air Rescue

Squadron whose creed is 'GET THERE FIRST'

By Mary Hewat

It was Manston men who located the Swiss air liner which crashed in the Channel, and dropped flares to guide surface craft to the survivors.

Constantly reports come in: "Rescued by American helicopter," "located by American amphibian," "lifeboats guided by American aircraft."

Why so often American? How do they get this "corner" on the rescue market? The answer is simple. They get there first.

"There" can be anywhere from Norway to France or half-way to Iceland. It makes no difference who is in trouble, or what the trouble is. Says Colonel Carleton: "We don't ask WHO? We ask WHERE?"

Colonel Carleton has two other squadrons in the group, one at Prestwick, and one in

Iceland. But it is Manston which seems to get the strangest jobs. And they answer any call.

They picked up a sailor with a ruptured appendix from a German trawler. They lowered a doctor on to Margate jetty one blustery night to attend a badly injured sailor.

They collected a casualty from a car accident and flew him to hospital. They once rushed an expectant mother to a maternity home — by car.

A navy aeroplane crashed into a glacier in Iceland, Manston sent a five-man parachute rescue team. When a C47 hit a moun-

tain near Nicos they spent a week searching for the wreck. (That time they found a wreck — but the wrong one.)

Two years ago, when floods brought terror and destruction to the East Coast, Manston men went in with trucks, rafts and helicopters. Two days later they were in Holland. One helicopter crew rescued 180 people on the first day alone.

These men are in the air force to look after the air force. But they take an oath when they join the rescue service, which others may not do, that end: "These things I do, that I am fundamentally incapable of minding their own business."

They intercept helicopters in difficulties and guide them safely in. They search for crashed pilots, both American and British. They rescue careless weekend sailors in row-boats.

That modest Texan, 33-year-old Colonel Carleton, has been on the job two and a half years. "I'm really, a transport



FLASHBACK to the South Goodwin lightship disaster — an A.R.S. helicopter rescued a man from the sea.

man," he says. "That's my first love."

So great a love was it, that he flew for General Chennault in China between tours of air force duty, going anywhere that buffalo carts and trucks could not go.

On one trip he carried a mystery cargo for the Governor of Yunnan, weighing 5,000lb.

Surly armed soldiers guarded the crates, refused to say what was in them. It turned out to be opium, worth at that time more than 3,000,000 dollars U.S.

Fastest unit

The American rescue men, said Colonel Carleton, work closely with RAF Coastal Command — and like it. "The British are the greatest rescue people in the world." There is no division of area, just a simple verbal arrangement to rescue people as fast as possible.

If the RAF are conducting a search for a British pilot, the Americans work under RAF control. If it is an American search, RAF pilots work under American direction.

And the cost? "We don't put a price on human life. No money changes hands either way." And that applies to any rescue work the Americans do. If anyone pays, it is the American taxpayer.

The men at windswept Manston field were not very talkative about their job or their reputation for being the fastest unit airborne, with one of the best radio and maintenance records.

They set their record the hard way by training from 200 to 250 hours a month. They push men out in boats and see how long it takes to get them back again.

They put a "casualty" in a field with lables to mark broken legs, lacerated face, etc, send out an air search for him, give medical treatment on the spot. They practise water landings in rough seas. And they fly in almost any weather.

Like most people who cannot mind their own business, they all have stories to tell — about each other.

They'll tell you about Major Paul Park, a quiet dark-haired 30-year-old, who volunteered for the Goodwin Sands rescue as co-pilot, and won the Silver Star (roughly equivalent to the Military Cross) for picking up a pilot in Korea 25 miles behind enemy lines. He calls it "pretty routine."

They will talk about the night this year when, thick-set Captain Curtis Perkins took a helicopter from Liege over a mountain range by night, in a snowstorm, to get a five-year-old girl to hospital. He says: "I don't much like night flying."

Got to learn

And they will discuss Lieut. Tom Mooney's navigation — when he piloted to intercept an aircraft in difficulties, 500 hours and 300 miles out over the Atlantic.

"He was out by three miles and one minute," said Operations Officer Major Charles Lowe. "I gave him hell, when he got back. He's usually accurate."

Says rescue boss Carleton: "Our standards have to be high. Minutes may mean a life. In the cold water round here you don't last very long."

The last time I saw him he was driving a car, with "L" plates. "Well, he's drawn, you've got to learn some time."

The Bride (For 5th Time) Still Hopes To Be Happy

Her former husbands have been members of the British Peerage, and Hollywood film stars. Now former London model Sylvia Hawkes has married a Russian prince.

New York. "I'm very happy," said the blonde and still lovely former London model, Sylvia Hawkes. "Ashley, Fairbanks — Stanley — Gable — she got off on her honeymoon with her fifth husband, Dimitri Djordjadze."

Having been twice a ladyship and twice countess of a top-rank film star, she is now a princess. Her husband, who is taller, darker, and "handsome" than any of her four previous husbands, is a Georgian prince whose job is to "assist Colonel Serge Obolensky — himself a prince who dropped his title, and is president of one of New York's plushiest hotels."

The honey-mooners had booked seats on an aeroplane from New York to Moscow in the Bahamas, but suddenly the bride decided to "move to Miami" instead, before taking the one-hour flight to Nassau.

The sleekly-groomed Prince took the wheel of his bride's new Cadillac. The bride, wearing the honey-moon dress, sat in the passenger seat.

Previous husbands (in order) Lord Ashley, Douglas Fairbanks, Stanley Gable, and Lord Gable.

The new princess was particularly delighted with one wedding present. It is from her father, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Hawkes. "They've lent us their Nassau home for the honeymoon," she said. "That's the nicest kind of wedding present we could have."

The honey-mooners were planning to have two weeks' rest before the honeymoon. But, according to the present plans, which the couple may switch any minute, she and her husband will spend the New Year week-end in the Bahamas, and return to New York, three days later.

By Frank Hopkins

Sam White's Paris Newsletter

RAINIER III IS A NEW MAN

IN Paris again is 31-year-old, handsome Prince Rainier III, ruler of the three-and-a-half-square-mile principality of Monaco; he knows the capital well as a dashing man-about-town — but his visit this time is on a more serious note.

His appearance as guest of President Coty marks the close of a long period of bickering between Monaco and the French Foreign Office. It also marks the beginning of a new Rainier, whose private life has been reconciled to the exigencies that beset a monarch.

For this the credit goes largely to a rosy-cheeked, grey-haired Roman Catholic priest, Father Tucker, an American, who is Rainier's chaplain and his closest adviser. It was he who persuaded Rainier to break off his romance with film actress Giselle Pascal — a romance which threatened the survival of a 700-year-old dynasty.

Rainier's insistence on an American chaplain was influenced by his unabashed liking for Americans, by a shrewd realisation that the principality might benefit from closer ties with the United States and by long conversations with America's Cardinal Spellman.

Father Tucker, who was in Rome at the time, was chosen by Spellman. A man fond of good living in his late 60's, he now thoroughly enjoys life in Monte Carlo.

Uniforms for the choir

He has introduced minor reforms in the principality. He has made the seating arrangements in Monte Carlo's St. Charles Church more democratic, "tweaking" away the reserved family pews and insisting that they should be available to all.

He has also organised choir boys into a band with colourful uniforms which make them resemble cheer leaders in American football.

Last year he persuaded Rainier to make a State visit to the shrine at Lourdes.

Rainier rules over Monaco from a cream-coloured, 200-roomed palace on a rock overlooking the Mediterranean. Almost daily, however, he likes to get away to his villa, La Condamine, on the French frontier.

An enthusiastic sailor and deep-sea fisherman, he has a motor yacht, a sail boat and a cabin cruiser at his disposal.

He has a passion for animals, and his villa houses a collection of dogs, cats and chimpanzees. Often he shows dislike for official functions by letting his father, Prince Paul de Polignac, preside at luncheons and dinners. As ruler of Monaco he is barred by law from Monte Carlo's casino.

One of the eligible bachelors of Europe, his single status continues to worry his 2,000 subjects, most of whom he knows by their Christian names.

The reason for their concern: a 1918 treaty provides that if a Prince of Monaco dies without issue, the principality becomes a French province — and subject to French taxes.

This year his subjects hoped he would go on the Royal Cruise organised by King Paul of Greece, but Rainier disappointed them for the very reason they hoped: he would accept King Paul's invitation. "There were too many marriageable girls on board," he explained when declining his invitation.

"Distortion of history?"

The aristocratic de Gramont family are bringing an action alleging libel against the producers of a film in which the Duchesse de Gramont is depicted as being rejected by King Louis XV in favour of Mme du Barry.

The role of Mme du Barry is played by Martine Carol. Says the Duc de Gramont, spokesman for the family: "The film is a distortion of history. We cannot let it stand, unchallenged."

According to his version, the Duchesse de Gramont remained an undisputed favourite of the king despite du Barry.

Dominici — a legal reform?

ALMOST without exception the Paris Press remains critical of the verdict of guilty brought against Gaston Dominici for the murder of the Drummond family.

They cite a lack of material proof and label tendentious the speech of the Public Prosecutor in which he discarded police evidence to build up his own theory of how the murders had taken place.

The trial has stimulated public criticism of the French judicial system and will probably result in reform, bringing it more into line with French pre-war practice and the British system.

Some newspapers point out that none of the seven jurymen asked a question throughout the eight-day trial, and that they were, never, never taking a note.

Benefit of the doubt.

A final point is that, possibly, the majority verdict was composed of a minority of jurymen — that is to say, the judge and his two assessors — and four jurymen voting against the verdict.

What shocks Paris commentators most is the striking contrast with the British system, which gives an accused man the benefit of the doubt. None of the commentators feels that, in similar circumstances, a British jury would have found a verdict of guilty.

-Evelyn Irons



TAKE 00

TOP OF THE BILL CHRISTMASSES

TED "What's in a name?" you may say. Well, three words make one of the most memorable Christmas memories I have ever known.

"What's in a name?" you may say. Well, three words make one of the most memorable Christmas memories I have ever known.

Some years ago the BBC agreed to my having my own radio show. The cost was arranged and we were ready to start rehearsals, but no one could think of a suitable name for the programme. We even called in the assistance of a National newspaper, but although hundreds of titles were suggested, none seemed to fill the bill.

At the time I was appearing in Ciderella at the Bristol Hippodrome, and, wishing to spend Christmas Day at home with my family, I drove to London on Christmas Eve with my friend Sidney Smith, the well-known producer and manager. As we drove through the chilly night, I told my friend of my dilemma.

"I've racked my brains, but I just can't find a title," I told him. "I want something with Ray in it."

There was complete silence for some minutes, a silence broken only by the rhythmic beat of the engine. Suddenly, Sidney turned to me and said: "What about 'Ray's a Laugh'?"

Yes, it was as simple as that. Thus was born the title of the show that was to run for five years. So do you wonder that I regard that incident as the most memorable of all my Christmas experiences?

BEVERLEY SISTERS Christmas Day, 1951, was one we are never likely to forget. It was the occasion of our first important engagement — a Variety Show from a first hospital at Richmond.

We had given our regular driver the day off, and without his comforting and reliable help we were rather nervous, very excited — and more than slightly behind schedule. But the taxi driver who was driving us to Richmond assured us there was nothing whatever to worry about.

"I'll get you there all right, girls. Just sit back and relax." Relax? How could we? It was Christmas morning, slight snow was falling, we were late and there we were in the taxi nervously running through the numbers for our show. (We always do that, when travelling.) But, relax — how? absurd. To make matters worse, we suddenly smelled burning, and with increasing clarity, a smell of smoke curling up around us. We yelled to the driver. He stopped, hopped out and opened the bonnet — and smoke and flames shot out.

But, once at the hospital, we were, too busy to be nervous, as Christmas dinner followed — rehearsals — autographs, as we were taken round the wards — yes — more rehearsals — and then the actual transmission of "Ray's a Laugh" — a most hectic Christmas Day.

But, despite the performance itself was not without its moments. Just before the Grand Finale we were to sing a medley of three songs — "Ray's a Laugh," "Silent Night," and "Jingle Bells." In the first of these, I had a cold, and my voice was hoarse.

Frankie Lawrence, who was

BRITAIN'S FAVOURABLE ENTERTAINERS TELL OF "MY MOST MEMORABLE CHRISTMAS"

After our first number we assumed dramatic solemn expressions, as we waited for the happy introduction to "Silent Night." Alas, the conductor of the orchestra turned over two pages by mistake. We often wonder what the viewers must have thought of our astounded expressions when we heard the jazzy brass introduction to "Jingle Bells."

That wasn't all. Fake snow was supposed to fall on us during the LAST chorus, but as the show was running a few minutes early, the orchestra kept repeating the chorus, while we kept singing gaily on — and the "snow" continued to shower down on us!

We were almost choked with the stuff. It covered our hair and eyelashes, and stuck to our lips. But by then, we were past caring.

Yes, we certainly won't forget that Christmas!

CARDEW My most unforgettable Christmas was undoubtedly 1952. I lived in a flat, but we were determined to get a house. After weeks of searching, we found the place we wanted, and started negotiations a few weeks before Christmas. Naturally, we hope to send Christmas in our new house, but owing to all the usual delays we couldn't move in until, believe it or not, Christmas Eve.

The last of the removal men left, us late in the afternoon, and there followed a procession of callers from the various public utility services. However, we managed to get the dining-room habitable by Christmas morning, and my wife and her mother-in-law, bless her, stayed to cook a turkey in the unfinished kitchen! (How, I shall never know!)

But that wasn't the end of that hectic Christmas. Leaving my mother-in-law to wash up, Elsie and I had to rush over to Alexandra Palace to appear in the Television Christmas Party. (Elsie, by the way, was one of the Toppers, although she has retired now.)

Later that Christmas night we returned to our new home, tired but happy, to find Elsie's mother, sitting, amongst the piled-up furniture in the lounge, putting the last few stitches in a pair of comely football socks I was to wear in

a TV Music Hall a couple of days later.

We enjoyed a glass of champagne together — and then took off our coats and carried on putting the house in order.

Well, you must agree, it was certainly an unusual Christmas Day.

NORMAN Christmas 1949 — I shan't forget that Christmas for a long time.

After two years on the stage I was playing "Buttons" in Ciderella at the Alexandra Theatre, Birmingham — a star for the first time. It was a great moment in my life. I had reached a dream milestone, and was extremely happy to be working with a grand company under a wonderful management, and with my wife in the cast, too. But there was another reason — a much better one — why 1949 still remains my most memorable Christmas.

After the ups and downs and the comings and goings of the previous two years, my wife and I had said "goodbye" to our last landlady. We now had a home of our own — a caravan. And in that we spent an unforgettable Christmas Day. There the two of us enjoyed our first festive dinner on our own. A wonderful dinner it was, the most wonderful I think I have ever tasted — for this we both felt, marked the turning point in our life together.

Much has happened since then, but I am sure that my thoughts at Christmas — wherever I may be — will turn to 1949. Happy memories!

JEWEL AND WARRISS There was nothing very exciting about Christmas 1951, except one incident: let us both with very happy memories.

We were glancing at the two robbers in "Babes in the Wood" at the London Palladium, and after the final Boxing Day performance, a young couple called at the Stage Door for autographs.

When we heard they were on holiday from Australia, and had just seen their first London show, we asked them into the dressing-room for a chat. (Beit here.) During conversation they told us that their respective parents often recalled the enjoyment we had given them when we had visited Australia some years before the war.

JOHNNY HAZARD

AS PLOTTING FOR HIS REVENGE...



JOHNNY SEES THE TELL-TALE SHADOW ON THE WATER



JOHNNY SEES THE TELL-TALE SHADOW ON THE WATER



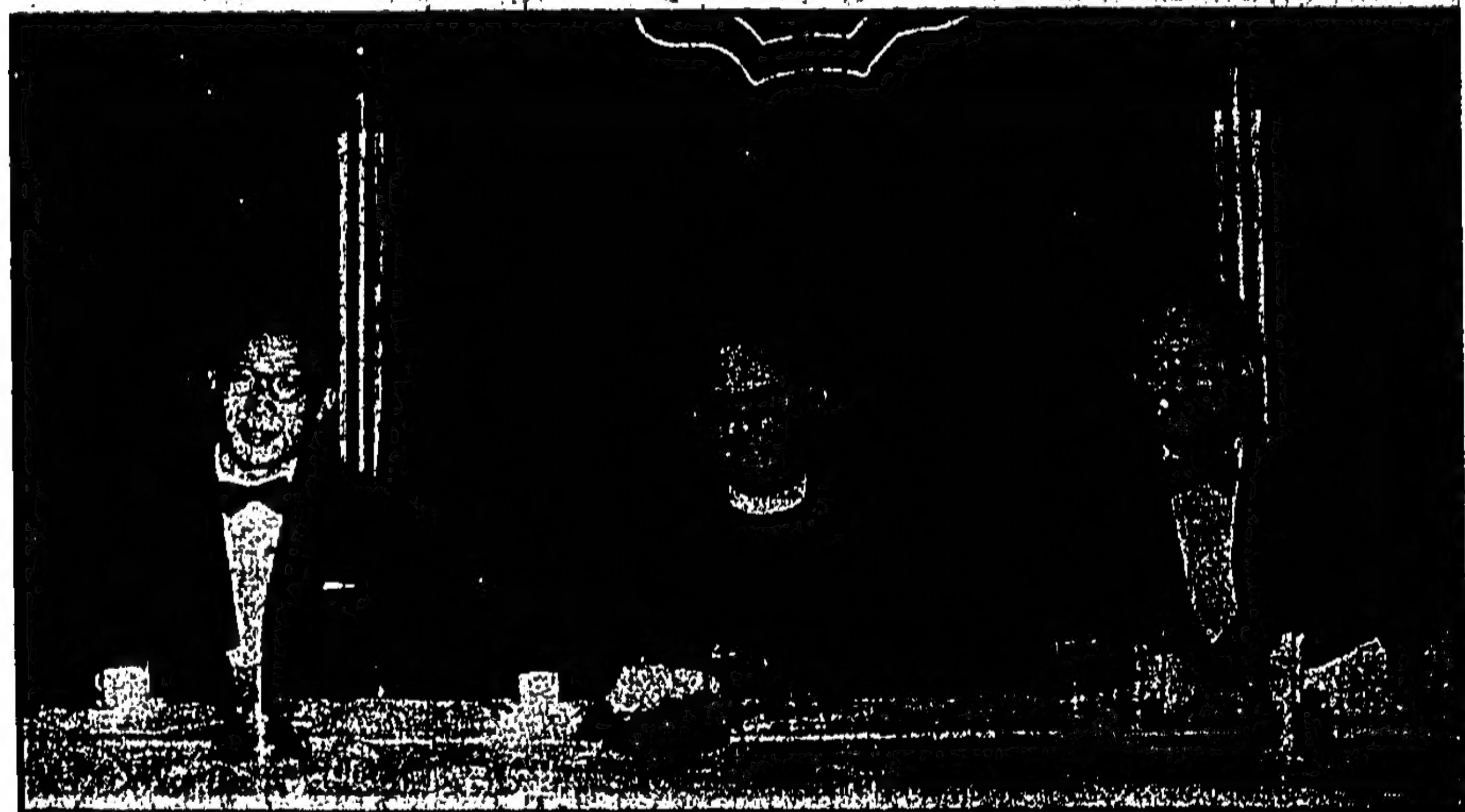
JOHNNY SEES THE TELL-TALE SHADOW ON THE WATER



TAKE 00



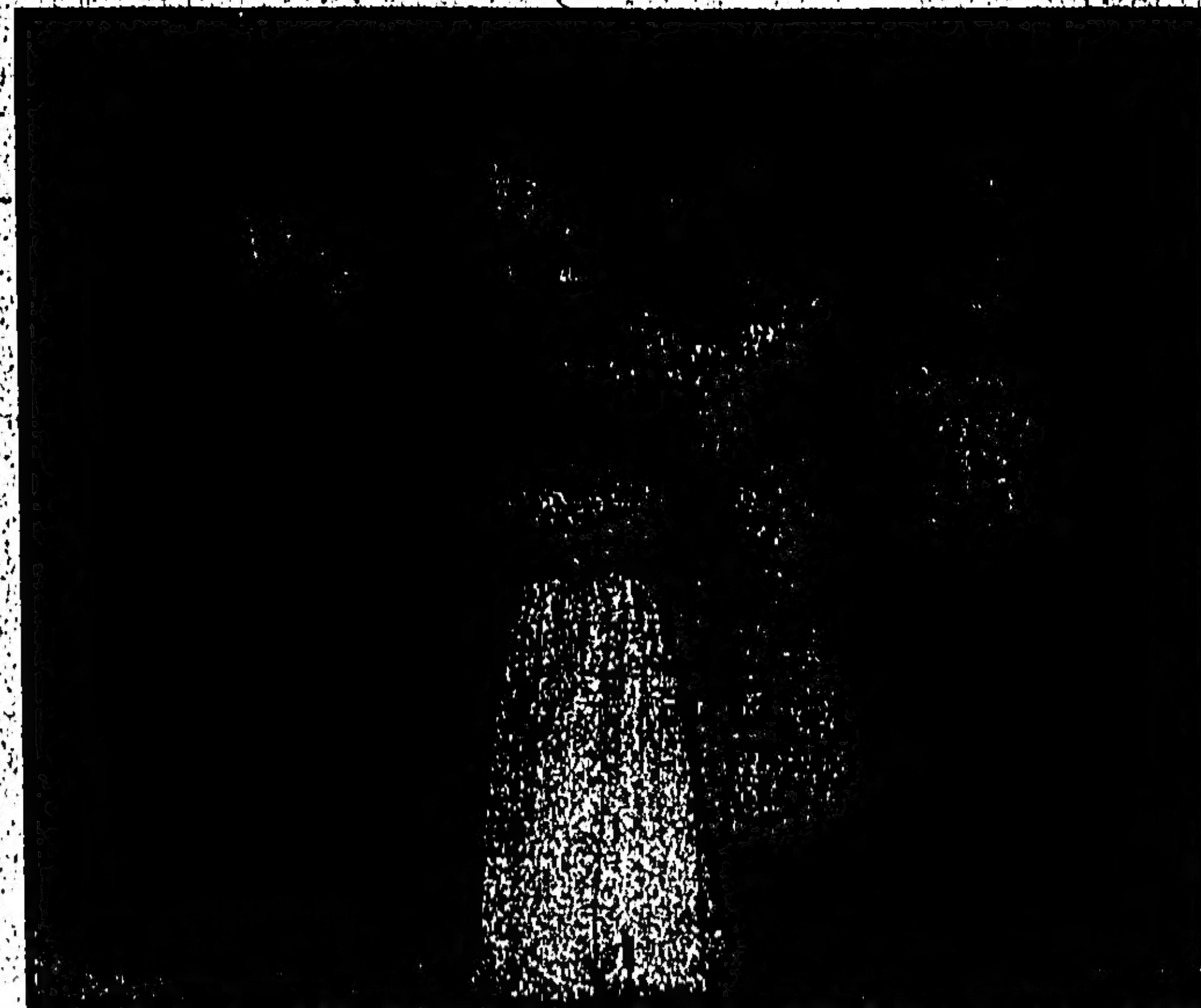
SANTA CLAUS has been a very busy man during the past few days. There were so many Christmas parties which he was expected to attend. These snapshots show him handing gifts to the little ones at (from top left, across) the Chatham Road Battle School, the Australian Association party at the Kowloon Tong Club, the Royal Hongkong Defence Headquarters, and the Y's Men's Club party at the Shun Kwong School. (Staff Photographer)



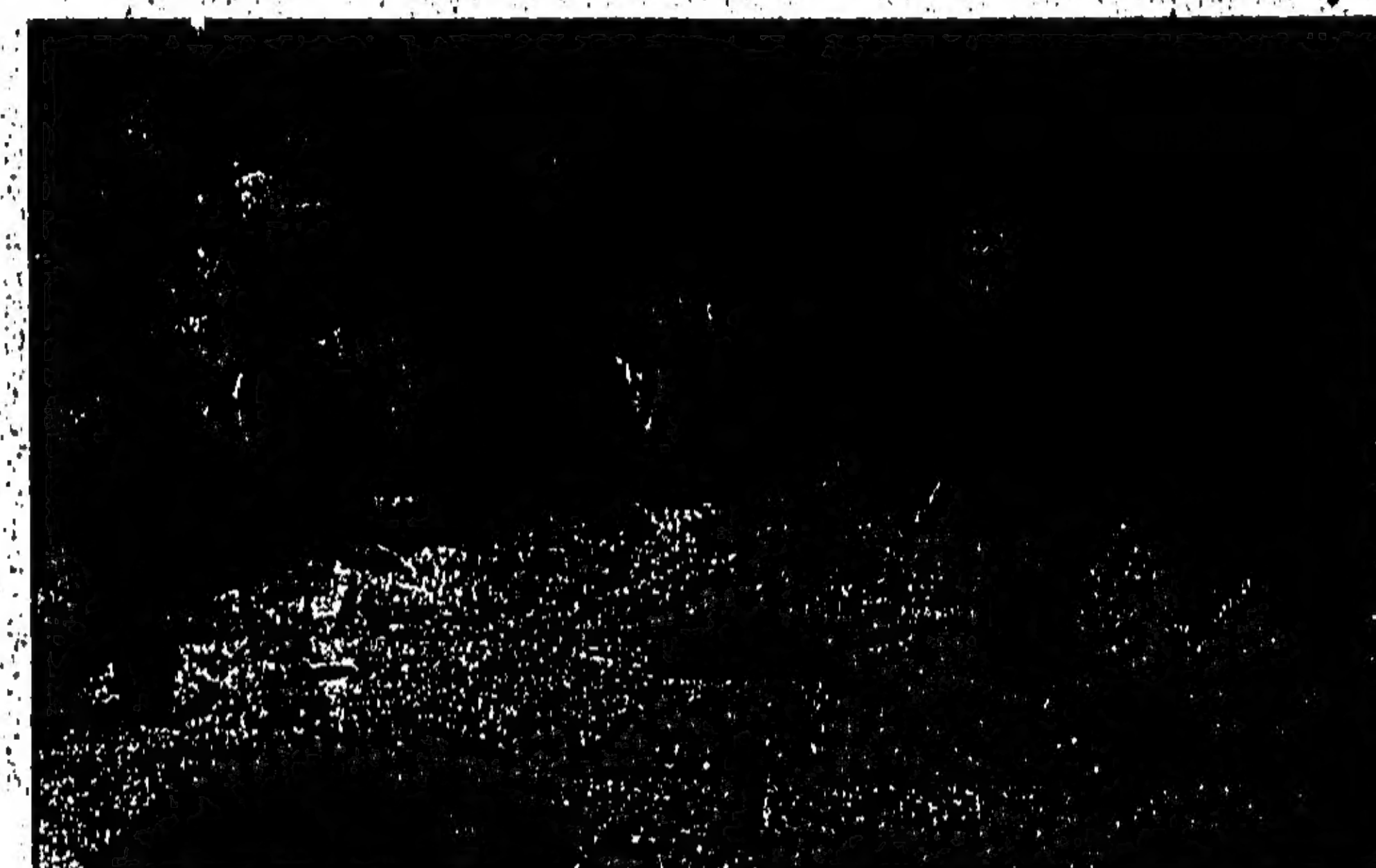
AT the Ricci Hall silver jubilee ball held at the Peninsula Hotel. The Rev. Fr. F. Cronin, Warden of Ricci Hall (centre), is seen with Mr Edmund Lee (left), Chairman of the Students' Association, and Prof. K. E. Priestley. (Staff Photographer)



DR Alberto P. Jorge, Macao's representative in the Portuguese National Assembly, snapped at the Club Lusitano where he gave a talk on recent trends and achievements in Portugal. (Staff Photographer)



PICTURE taken at the Union Church last Saturday after the wedding of Mr William McKay Gillies and Miss Ella Gilmour Reid. (Staff Photographer)

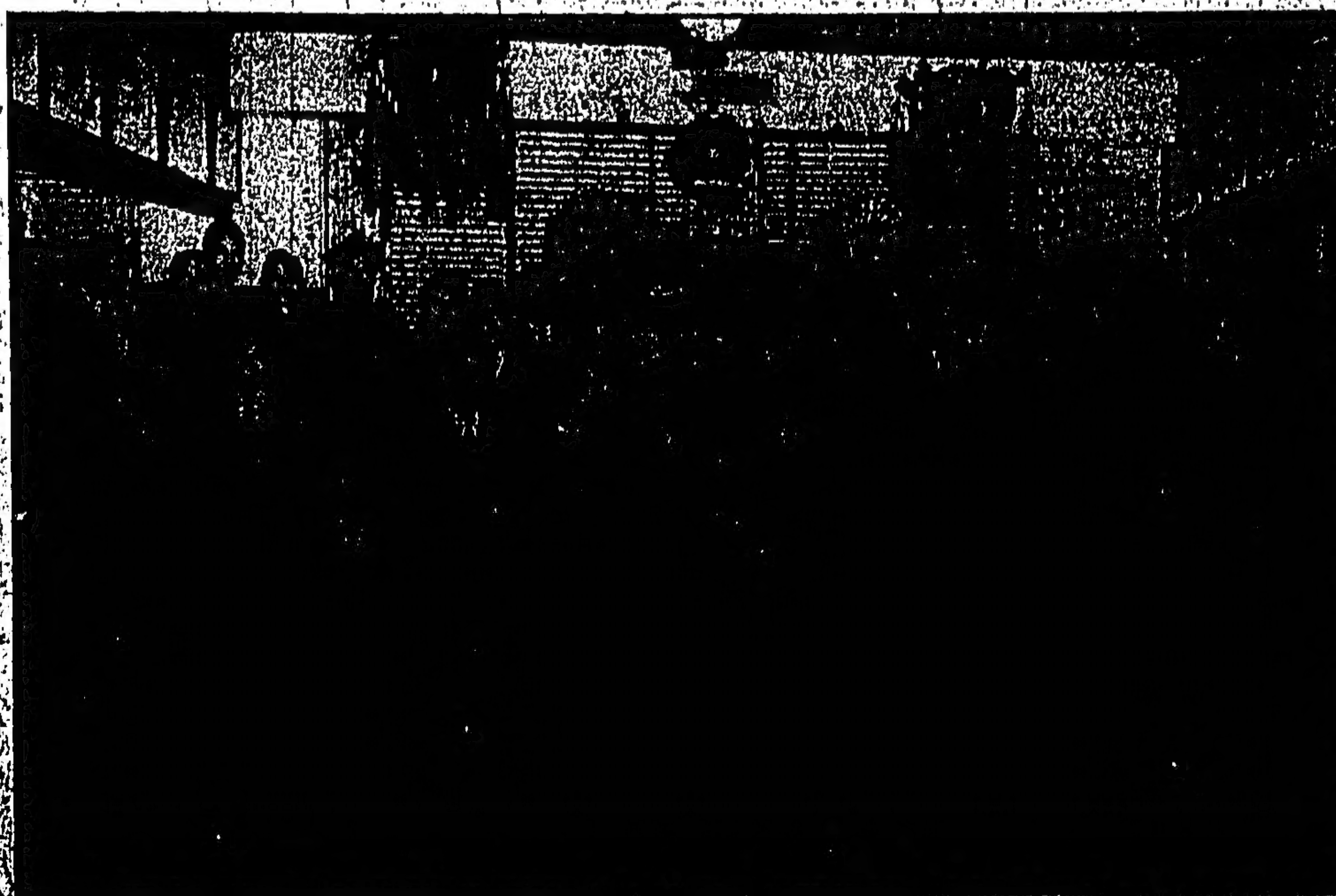


THE staff of the Treasury Department held a Christmas dinner at the Bankers' Club last week. Picture shows (from left) Mr C. Y. So, Mr M. S. Kwong, Mr R. C. Lehman, Accountant General, and Mrs J. F. Chapman. (Staff Photographer)

LEFT: Mr D. Y. Lee, President of the Hong Kong Branch of St John's University Alumni Association, speaking at the dinner dance held last week to mark the diamond jubilee of St John's. (Staff Photographer)

A very Merry Christmas!

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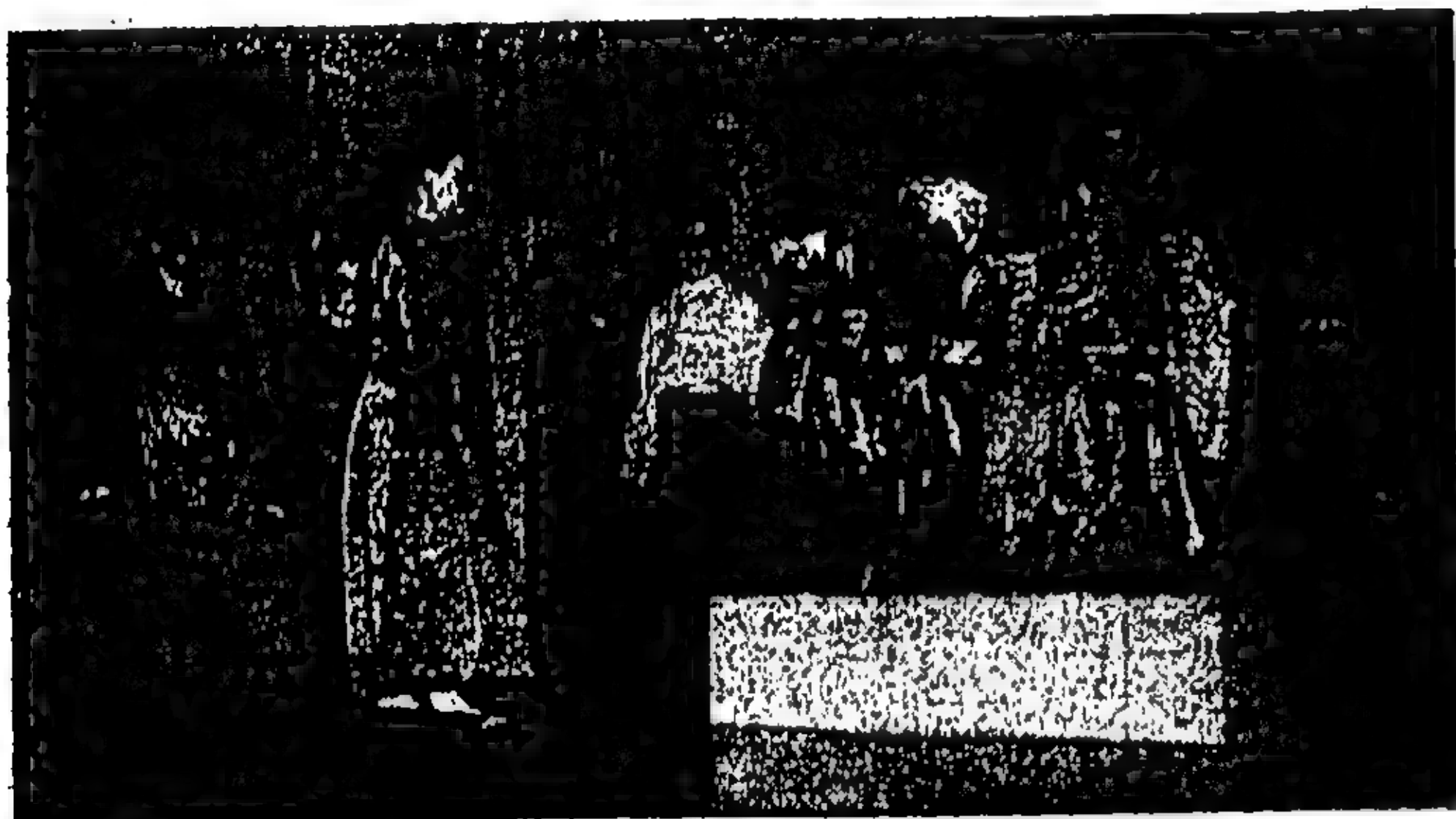
Modern in design, packed with the most advanced features, and priced to beat distant all.

Door storage. Full width interior. Quick chiller. Twin compressors. Self-closing door latch with lock.

GIEMANO



ABOUT 60 young patients at the Tung Wah Eastern Hospital attended a Christmas party given on Wednesday by the British Red Cross Society Diversional Therapy Group. Here a little lad is being shown how to work the toy he found in his gift parcel. (Staff Photographer)



SCENE from the Kowloon Junior School Christmas pantomime, "Aladdin," which was presented at the King George V School last week. (Staff Photographer)



MISS Livia Villaroyes and Mr Osbando Lim in a Peruvian Inca dance, "Las Virgenes del Sol," during the celebrations in honour of Our Lady of Guadalupe by the Asociacon Hispano-Americana of Hongkong.



DR the Hon. S. N. Chau presenting prizes at the annual speech day of King's College, which took place last week. (Staff Photographer)



SPEAKING at the closing day and prize presentation of the Kowloon Bowling Green Club is the President of the Club, Mr W. J. Geall. (Staff Photographer)



ST Stephen's Girls' College won the Hongkong Stage Club trophy when its production of "Everyman" was adjudged first in the senior English section of the Inter-Schools Dramatic Competition. This is the cast. (Staff Photographer)



AT the annual combined ball of the Duchess of Kent Hall and Hornell Hall of Hongkong University, which was held at the Peninsula Hotel on Tuesday. From left: Mr John Choo, Mr G. U. da Rosa, Jr., Miss Ida Cheung, Mr K. C. Kwong, Mrs Rose, the Very Rev. A. P. Rose. (Staff Photographer)



LEFT: Madame Doria Shafik, well known Egyptian woman leader, photographed at the Peninsula Hotel on Wednesday when she met officials of Hongkong's women's organisations and press representatives. (Staff Photographer)

BELOW: One of the many gay parties at the Peninsula Hotel on Monday evening, when the Casam Club held its first annual ball. (Staff Photographer)



PICTURE taken at the christening of Deborah Louise, infant daughter of Mr and Mrs. Kenneth J. Hanmer, which took place at St Andrew's Church last Saturday. (Mainland)



MR Ip Sei-kit, Chairman of the Yau-mat Kaitong Association, is seen flanked on the left by Mr A. J. Schouten, new Divisional Superintendent of Yau-mat Police Station, and Mr V. M. Morrison. The Association feted Mr Morrison at dinner on his transfer from Yau-mat to Police Headquarters as Welfare Officer. (Staff Photographer)

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MACKINTOSH'S

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DES VOTUX ROAD



YE LUCK OF YE TOSS

A lot will no doubt be heard before the present Test series in Australia is finished of "the luck of the toss". In view of Len Hutton's almost invariable ill-luck, it is indeed fortunate for England that the first of the 1,744 laws of cricket has been eliminated.

This earliest known publication of the laws comprised a schedule, the first paragraph of which read:

"Ye pitching of ye first Wicket is to be determined by ye cast of a piece of Money".

According to interpretations of these paragraphs, the advantage of winning the toss meant that a strong bowling side would order the wicket to be pitched on a bad piece of ground and put their opponents in.

Since there seems to be a general move in cricket circles up and down the United Kingdom to improve the game and increase public interest, the possibilities of a revival of this particular paragraph of the 1,744 rules would certainly be wide and most intriguing, although groundsman may not relish the prospect of responsibility being shifted from captains and umpires to themselves.

And the 1,744 laws certainly did seem to point a moral—in those days they did not provide for the players wearing pads, and the operation of the l.b.w. did not exist!

SPEEDING UP

Don Cockell aims to speed up his world heavyweight title bid by a move to a more moral—those days they did not provide for the players wearing pads, and the operation of the l.b.w. did not exist!

THE HONG KONG JOCKEY CLUB

SIXTH RACE MEETING
Monday 27th December 1954 & Saturday 1st January 1955
(To be held under the Rules of the Hong Kong Jockey Club)

THE PROGRAMME WILL CONSIST OF 18 RACES.

The First Race will be run at 12 o'clock NOON and the First Race run at 12:30 p.m. on both days.

The Tiffin interval is after the Third Race (1:30 p.m.) on both days.

The Secretary's Office at Alexandra House will close at 10:30 a.m. on both days.

MEMBERS' ENCLOSURE

NO PERSON WITHOUT A BADGE WILL BE ADMITTED.
All persons MUST wear their badges prominently displayed throughout the meeting.

Admission tickets at \$10.00 each per day are obtainable through the Secretary on the written or personal introduction of a Member, such member to be responsible for all visitors introduced by him.

Tickets will be obtainable at the Club House if ordered in advance from the No. 1 Boy (Tel. 72811).

NO CHILDREN will be admitted to the Club's premises during the Meeting. For this purpose a Child is a person under the age of seventeen years, Western Standard.

PUBLIC ENCLOSURE

The price of admission will be \$3.00 each per day payable at the Gate.

Any person leaving the Enclosure will be required to pay the requisite fee of \$3.00 in order to gain re-admission.

MEALS and REFRESHMENTS will be obtainable in the RESTAURANT.

SERVANTS

Servants must remain in their employer's boxes except for passing through on their duties. They may on no account use the Betting Booths in the Members' Betting Hall.

CASH SWEEPS

Through Cash Sweep Tickets at \$18.00 each per day and \$36.00 for both days may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Offices during normal office hours until 10:30 a.m. on the first day.

Particular numbers within the series 1 to 4,000 may be reserved for all race meetings as Through Tickets. Such tickets will be issued consecutively only and the right is reserved by the Stewards to cancel any reservation for Through Tickets for a particular Meeting if it is found that sales may not reach the number reserved in the series 1 to 4,000.

In the case of two-day Race Meetings, Through Tickets may be purchased for each day of the Meeting provided that the second day is on a date not less than five days after the first day. In all other cases Through Tickets will only be sold for the whole Meeting.

Tickets reserved and available but not paid for by 10:00 a.m. on Friday, 24th December, 1954, will be sold and the reservation cancelled for future Meetings.

Tickets over 4,000 will also be issued consecutively but particular numbers cannot be reserved as Through Tickets.

The reservation of any particular number does not confer on the registered holder any rights whatsoever unless the ticket bearing the appropriate number is issued to and can be produced by the holder.

The Stewards reserve the right to refuse any subscription also the right to remove any name from subscription lists without stating reasons for their action.

Cash Sweep Tickets on the last race of the Meeting at \$2.00 each may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Offices at Queen's Building, (Chater Road), 5, D'Aguiar Street and 382, Nathan Road during normal office hours and until 10:30 a.m. on both days of the Meeting.

SPECIAL CASH SWEEP

Tickets for the Special Cash Sweep on the Pearce Memorial Cup scheduled to be run on 22nd January, 1955, at \$2.00 each, may be obtained from the Cash Sweep Offices.

TOTALISATOR

Backers are advised not to destroy or throw away their tickets until after the "all clear" signal has been exhibited.

ALL WINNING TICKETS AND TICKETS FOR REFUNDS MUST BE PRESENTED FOR PAYMENT AT THE RACE COURSE ON THE DAY TO WHICH THEY REFER, NOT LATER THAN ONE HOUR AFTER THE TIME FOR WHICH THE LAST RACE OF THE DAY HAS BEEN SCHEDULED TO BE RUN.

PAYMENTS WILL NOT BE MADE ON TORN OR DISFIGURED TICKETS.

Bookmakers, The Tote men, etc. will not be permitted to operate within the precincts of the Hong Kong Jockey Club.

By Order of the Stewards
H. M. A.



International Softball Series Starts On Boxing Day

No League softball games will be played during the holidays. Instead, two international softball matches will take their place. On Boxing Day, Portugal Ladies will meet China Ladies at 1:30 p.m. in the first of a three-game series and Pakistan will cross bats with the Philippines at 3:00 p.m. in the preliminary knockout round for the Men's International title.

The Portugal Ladies team is composed of players selected from Wahoons "A" and "B" and Colleens "A". Manager E. H. Carvalho has announced that the following have been selected for the game: Teresa Campos, Nana Carvalho, Alexandrina Mendonca, Therese Noronha, Sheila Bernal-Silva, Yolanda Silva, Irene Starkey, from Wahoons "A"; Evelyn Alonso, Angela D'Aquino, Sheila Colloco, Myra Cruz, Valerie Fernandez, Therese Roza-Pereira from Wahoons "B" and Mira D'Almeida, Dorothy Mendoza, Diana Pires and Benita Remedios from Colleens "A".

They are all heavy sluggers and veteran players forming a very strong team and are favoured to clinch the title once again.

The China Ladies' team will be managed by Miss Connie Lai and the coaches are Messrs Willie Woo and Bol Law. The players selected are Goretzi Chan, Y. C. Kwan, L. K. Koo, C. Y. Kwong, Margaret Lam, Helen Leung, Madeline Gosling, from South China AA, Pearl Chan, Amy Chen, S. M. Chu, Stella Pih, L. S. Yim from Pandarettes, L. W. Chan, M. K. Chan, T. Y. Chan, W. Y. Loui, Olive Yuen from Chinese Athletic Association and Sally Sun from Colleens "A".

These ladies have long years of experience and good hitting power and are expected to give the title-holders a real challenge.

The Pakistan men's team is quite strong and comes largely from St. Joseph's team, the Pennant holders in the Senior "A" League. The others are from Braves, the young Comets and Blackhaws.

Their tentative line-up, as revealed by manager A. J. Hussain, is: A. R. Saleh, p. Named to the team are David Victor (HKU), Tonkens Tavares, Blas Despa, Alex Eusebio, Fred Diesta, Fernando Gutierrez, Sonny Azevedo (Delawares), Fernando Diesta, Jr. (PID), Eddy Cruz (PID), Reynoldo Pacheco (PID), Benny Eusebio (Dukes), Michael Bugo (Dukes), Gerry Morales (Dukes), Cyro Caldas (Dukes) and Onofre Souza (Saints).

The International Softball Series has created much interest among local fans since 1938 as all the teams are formed from the best players of all nationalities and the games are usually hotly contested.

This year, there are two rival contestants in the Ladies' series, i.e. Portugal and China, and five in the Men's Series—Pakistan, Philippines, USA, Portugal and China. The ladies will play a series of three games and the men a knockout competition.

The semi-finals will be played during the Chinese New Year holidays and the final during the Easter Holidays. China

and Portugal are the strongest of all the entrants and are expected to meet in the final.

Past Winners of the International Series were:

Year	Men	Ladies
1938-39	India	China
1939-40	India	China
1940-41	USA	—
1941-42	G. Britain	—
1942-43	India	Portugal
1943-44	Portugal	Portugal
1944-45	Pakistan	Portugal
1945-46	Portugal	China
1946-47	Portugal	China
1947-48	China	Portugal
1948-49	China	Portugal
1949-50	China	Portugal
1950-51	China	Portugal
1951-52	China	Portugal
1952-53	China	Portugal
1953-54	China	Portugal

League Standings

The League games will resume in the New Year and the present standings in the Leagues are:

Senior "A"	P	W	L	Pts.
St. Joseph's	5	5	0	1000
CAA	5	5	1	833
Pandas "A"	5	4	1	800
Braves	5	3	2	600
Warriors	5	1	4	167
U. S. Navy	5	1	4	167
Delawares	5	0	5	000

Senior "B"	P	W	L	Pts.
Americans	7	0	1	857
Blackhaws "A"	7	0	1	857
Pandas "B"	6	3	3	500
Overseas "B"	7	2	5	250
HKU	7	0	7	000

Junior "Blue"	P	W	L	Pts.
Comets	8	7	1	875
Dukes	7	0	1	857
Pandas Jr.	6	4	2	687
Wah Yung	5	3	2	600
Overseas "B"	6	1	7	125
25 Pounders	10	1	9	100

Junior "Gold"	P	W	L	Pts.
Blackhaws "B"	8	0	0	1000
P. I. Dodgers	8	0	0	1000
CAA Jr.	5	3	2	600
SCAA	7	2	5	283
Lynxes	5	1	4	200
Seventeeners	6	0	0	000

Ladies' League	P	W	L	Pts.
Wahoons "A"	7	7	0	1000
Wahoons "B"	6	0	2	750
Colleens "A"	7	5	2	714
SCAA	9	0	3	687
Pandas	7	3	4	429
CAA	7	1	6	143
Overseas	7	1	6	143
Colleens "B"	8	1	7	125

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SATURDAY SOCCER SPOT

NOW A TOUR OF SOUTH AMERICA MAY COMPLICATE MATTERS

By I. M. MacTAVISH

It seems inevitable that our football affairs must be tinged with controversy; with argument and counter-argument; with proposal and counter-proposal.

For some weeks it has been well known in local circles that the Hongkong Football Association was giving most active consideration to the possibility of sending a representative side to Europe in the months immediately following the end of the current season.

The project has been openly discussed, considered and publicised. There are those who are rightly concerned about the financial aspects of such an undertaking and no matter how optimistically one views it there are undoubtedly many problems involved.

Much preparatory work has already been done and it would seem that there is a reasonable prospect of the scheme coming to healthy and beneficial fruition.

Now, however, comes the news that other interests in the Colony are negotiating for a tour of South America, and according to the information available in soccer circles, the likelihood of this second project coinciding with that of the HKFA's proposed tour of Europe.

Such a situation is fraught with complications. Neither Europe nor South America has any desire to see anything but the very best Hongkong side in action and it is obvious that the star players cannot be in two places at the same time.

While one can understand—or at least guess at—the underlying implications of the situation it is difficult to see what football progress can be made out of it. This constant tug-of-war benefits the game little and must cause the players many secret headaches.

However there is one aspect of the present position that should not be overlooked... that is its relation to the Olympic Games of 1956. It is generally accepted that one of the aims of the Hongkong Football Association is to be represented, if possible, at these Games, and it has often been said in conversation that this projected tour in Europe was being regarded in the light of a pre-Games preparation during which our players could get some glimpse of the standard of opposition they might be expected to meet in Melbourne in 1956.

Such an underlying theme would make the European tour worthwhile and it would be a great pity indeed if it had to be sacrificed because of diverging policies in the Colony. ... and I say that with a fair appreciation that the question of eligibility to compete in the Olympic Games may also be a complicated one.

WORTH READING

In recent times there has been a great deal of discussion about the standard of refereeing in the Colony Leagues.

The referee will always be a target for the critics, whoever they may be, but to get a new slant on the whole aspect of the man with the whistle I cannot do better than commend to the attention of referees, players, officials, spectators and critics a new book which has just become available in the Colony. It is "Refereeing Round the World" by Arthur E. Ellis, and is a book that is well worth reading by anyone who is in any way—

with each side.

3.—Remember ability to administer the laws is just as important as knowledge of the laws.

4.—You are promoted on your ability as a referee, not on your ability as a linesman.

5.—Never refuse even the most minor game... refereeing small games proves your love of the game and that is what is wanted.

6.—Join the local referees' association. You will get a lot of help there and get a chance to join in healthy discussions.

7.—Make sure everyone knows who is boss when you go on to the field.

8.—But don't be officious or theatrical. A good referee is the one who goes quietly about his job and keeps the game under control without ever being noticed.

9.—Don't play solos on your whistle. People pay to watch football, not to hear a referee blowing a whistle.

10.—Never try to show players up.

11.—Look smart and keep fit.

12.—Never break your word—if you threaten anything, do it.

13.—Carry a spare whistle, watch and pencil.

14.—Never forget, there is always something to learn.

15.—Never, never, never get discouraged.

These are wise words... but this is a grand book all through... I am sure football folk will enjoy it as much as I did.

HOLIDAY MATCHES

There is an interesting schedule of games over the holiday period and with the weather a little warmer again there are sure to be big crowds to see some of them. The full programme is as follows:—

T. DAY

CAA vs. Sing Tao at Boundary Street, 4 p.m.

St. Joseph's vs. South China at Club Stadium, 4 p.m.

KMB vs. Police at Caroline Hill, 4 p.m.

TOMORROW

Eastern vs. RAF at Sookun-poo, 4 p.m.

Kwong Wah vs. Navy at Club Stadium, 4 p.m.

Kitchee vs. Army at Caroline Hill, 4 p.m.

MONDAY

International Cup—1st Round

Scotland vs. England at Club Stadium, 2:30 p.m.

Portugal vs. China at Club Stadium, 4:00 p.m.

(Both games of 80 mins. duration—No Extra. time.)

The crowd will be at the Club Stadium this afternoon to see St. Joseph's conquerors of Kwong Wah, KMB and Army, clash with South China.

Once again much depends on whether or not St. Joseph's have their stars from Macao in the line-up. If they have this can be a grand tussle, but without them the team is unlikely to present any major threat to the boys from Caroline Hill.

Whatever the line-up, I feel that South China have the power and are apt to see them through... especially if Tong Sheng's back in the team.

The Saints are dangerous opponents and this game has the right amount of "it" about it to bring out the crowd.

Last week's heavy defeat of the Army has taken some of the gloss off the Saints' importance out of the holiday meeting with Kitchee tomorrow. Kitchee has separately in mind to keep its position in the top three, but also has a few other things on its mind.

This is a good game and one to watch.

POP

Called to the Bar

SHOWCASE

AMERICA BAR

POP

Called to the Bar

SHOWCASE

AMERICA BAR

POP

Called to the Bar

SHOWCASE

AMERICA BAR

IT WAS REALLY BOXING DAY IN 1908

LEGALISED ASSAULT AND BATTERY UNTIL THE POLICE STEPPED IN

By DENNIS HART

Boxing Day. A day of goodwill. The time, in fact, for giving Christmas boxes. December 26, 1908 really was Boxing Day, however, the day Jack Johnson became the world's first coloured Heavyweight Champion.

Boxing? Not in the true sense. The dethronement of reigning title-holder Tommy Burns was legalised assault and battery; legalised, that is, until the 14th round when police invaded the ring to stop the fight.

Grudge fights and ballyhoo are part and parcel of the fight business. But in the battle fought out in the season of goodwill, 1908, every word of the pre-fight spiel came from the depth of two bitter hearts.

HATE INTO FURY

Publicly fanned hate into fury, it blazed across the world as Johnson chased his quarry over two continents.

The quarry, Burns was an amazing boxer, just topping five and half feet, he backed a middleweight. But for two years he had been world heavyweight champion, and defended the title eight times.

Throughout those years he had been dogged by the shadow of the six-foot Johnson, taunting and baiting.

The slugging match began at their first meeting. In a Californian hotel Burns had just signed to defend his title against Australia's Bill Squires. Johnson, a native of Australia, and challenged Burns to a fight, any time, any place.

The Canadian refused, adding an insult. Johnson's happy-go-lucky expression hardened, his voice lost its lazy drawl as he spat out the word "coward."

Who was to blame the negro? Burns' action had the stamp of cowardice. Yet the 27-year-old French Canadian was no punk. He did have a phobia about negroes. He didn't think black and white should meet in the ring.

If only he'd let the matter rest there. But to cover up his phobia he went out of his way to insult Johnson.

AGE-OLD LOGIC

Burns had another reason for avoiding Johnson based on age-old ring logic—money. Later he frankly admitted, "I was side-tracking Johnson. I read in him a difficult man to master. I wanted to keep Johnson off as long as I could."

"I had to make money at fighting to live, and champions don't make money. I'd known what it was to starve, and I wasn't going to let it happen again."

Beating Squires, Burns came to England. Johnson followed. Burns met England's burly Gunner Moir and duly knocked him out in ten rounds.

But it was Johnson England wanted to see. The coloured man was getting a raw deal. With traditional love of the underdog, English fans took to him. This, with his wonderful appearance, made him a public hero.

Burns was scorned. He did not consent to fight Johnson—for £6,000. This was an unprecedented purse in England and only a few things worse. People said he was deliberately dodging the fight.

Burns was due to appear on music hall—the way many fighters boosted ring earnings. With his popularity at zero it seemed a dismal, possibly dangerous, venture. So he sailed America for 1,000 copies of boxing record books, quoting big American purses, and gave them away.

SHEWED MOVE

It was a shrewd move. He was forgiven. He fought again in London, then in Dublin, Paris and in Australia. He continued slugging Johnson verbally, but he would not fight him.

Johnson, however, determined to get his man, borrowing £200, he followed Burns to Australia. Public outcry then became so loud that Burns could no longer duck the challenge.

He stuck out for his £6,000. He got it—to his cost. He turned down an alternative offer of £4,000 plus 40 per cent of the takings. Such was the interest that there was a record gate of over £22,000 at the new Rushcutters Bay arena and Burns missed an extra £7,000. Johnson asked for £3,000, was offered £1,000 and took it gladly. He would have fought for nothing.

The fight almost took place, unbilled, two weeks early. Two sparring partners from the rival camps, O'Donnell from Burns' stable and Bryant from Johnson's,

son's, fought on a provincial bill. The two world title contestants were present. O'Donnell won. Burns sneered. Johnson, fighting mad, had to be held back.

So the stage was set. The two men had trained harder than ever before. Now they faced each other, personal and racial honour at stake, the eyes of 20,000 Australians on them, the eyes of the world on the result.

Burns, with a moon-shaped head, a tuft of hair which flopped over the middle of his forehead and with his intense eyes, was known as boxing's Napoleon. Despite previous inhibitions, he looked confident. He was odds-on favourite. Betting was 7-4 in the Canadian's favour.

This, however, was because many thought Johnson would throw the fight. Perhaps Burns thought so too.

WELL HE MIGHT

In the opposite corner Johnson appeared even more confident. He was smiling that so-plesant Johnson smile. Well he might. He outweighed Burns by 102 pounds to 108; every ounce stood for power, ease and grace. He was boxing's black panther and that night he was as alert as a wild animal ready to pounce on its prey.

Napoleon? Johnson, despite a squallid upbringing, had educated himself. He had studied Napoleon, and his fall. "Seconds out the ring," called promoter-referee Hugh McIntosh. This fight was on.

Before Burns had time to think, a Johnson left pierce hit grazed. It was not a hard blow. But it foretold the course of the contest. Johnson, hitting hard as he pleased, Burns, the human punch bag.

The challenger could have taken the title in two rounds. But having chased his man half way across the world, he wanted his money's worth, to give Burns a boxing lesson he would never forget.

Round after round it went on. Burns to his credit, did give up. He kept coming in. But his attacks had the desperation of a child beating at a closed door, and the same effect.

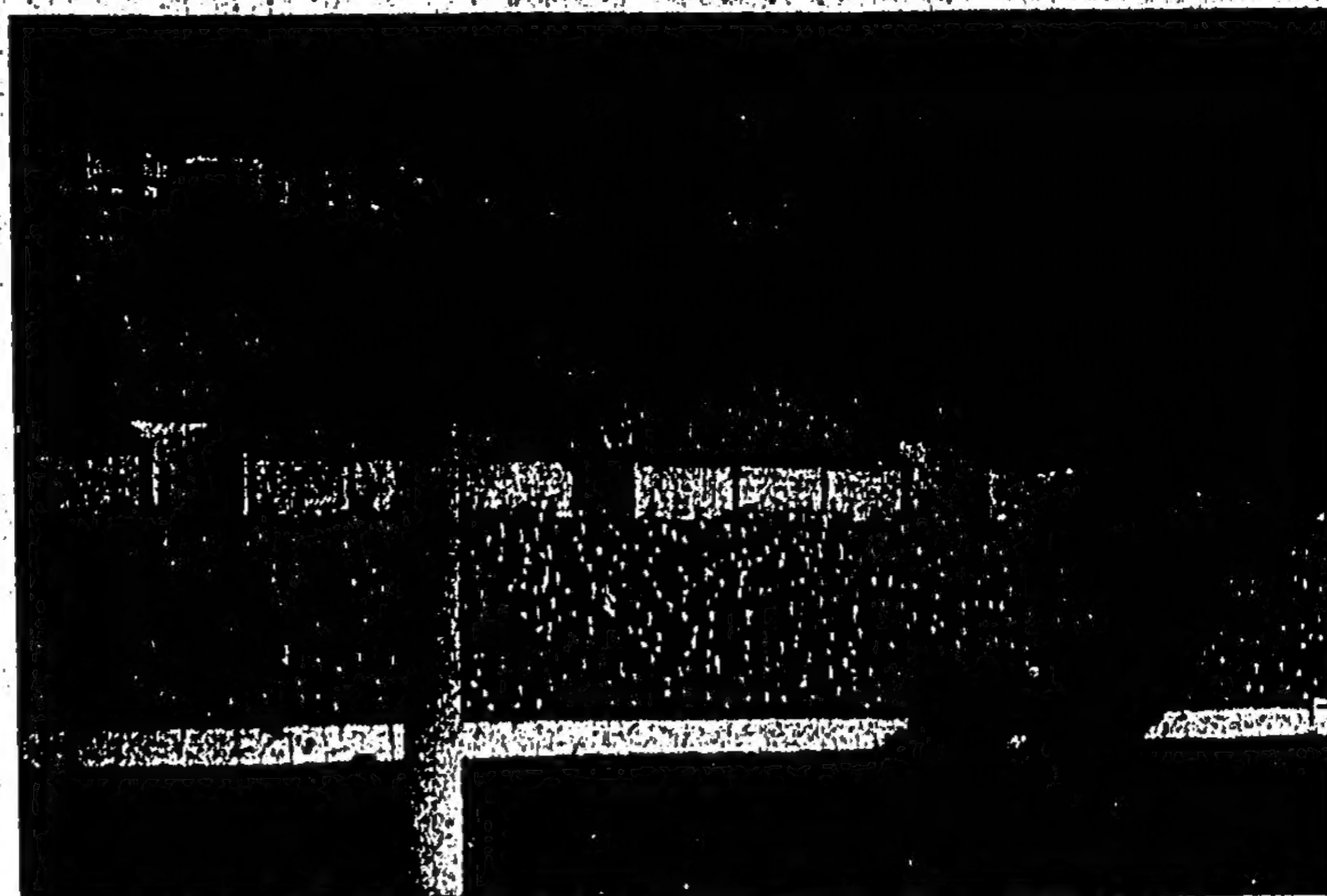
And all the time Johnson goaded him on. "That's not the way, Tahny," he would jibe. "Hit there, Tahny," and expose his stomach. Burns would lunge at Johnson's unprotected middle. "That's right, Tahny," the chuckling Negro would sing out, and rip home a left to Burns' face.

AIMED TO HUMILIATE

For Johnson was not after more physical revenge. He aimed to humiliate Burns. Never again must the Canadian say that Jack Johnson had a yellow streak.

Six rounds gone. Burns, his face a shapeless mass of bruised flesh, his body a series of ugly red blotches, was lined up for the kill. It never came, Johnson saw to that. He nursed his

EQUALISER FOR THE VILLA



A gallant effort by Reynolds, the 'Spurs' goalie, is of no avail as Aston Villa's centre-forward, Dixon, scores the visitors' first and equalising goal at the match played at White Hart Lane.—Reuterphoto.

Monday's Chances At The Valley

The Hongkong Jockey Club's Sixth Race Meeting of the season will be spread over two days—Monday, December 27, and Saturday, January 1.

Each day's programme will consist of nine events; the first saddling bell will be rung at noon and the first race will commence promptly at 12.30 p.m.

The tiffin interval will follow on both days after the running of the Third Race (1.30 p.m.), and the first bell after tiffin will be rung at 2.30 p.m.

Here are my estimates of the chances:

FIRST RACE

Thurley Handicap (One Mile). The opening race on Monday is confined to Class 9 ponies with novice jockeys as riders. In my estimation the result will be decided between Blister Sweet (Mr Robert Luk), Angelle Power (Mr U. Kam-lun), First Lady (Mr Cham Sul-lun) and Thunder Sky (Mr H. W. Mok). Judging from its last outing when it came in third in the Obelisk Hill Handicap at the 3rd Race Meeting over the two mile post, Blister Sweet has the best chance of scoring a win here with Angelle Power as the main opposition.

I would, however, recommend keeping Thunder Sky in mind as this pony is coming along nicely at morning gallops and may possibly create an upset.

SECOND RACE

Galway Handicap (From 1½ Mile Post). This sprint event is confined to Class 5 ponies. The following should be prominent: Pot O'Gold (Mr H.K. Chuang), Diana (Mr Wei), Hiram C (Mr Chen Foo) and Highlight (Mr Oliveira).

I do not think we need look further than Pot O'Gold as the

opponents to keep the slaughter going. At the end of the 13th round he actually held Burns up.

Then, the 14th. The Canadian pathetically pawed his way to the centre of the ring. It was a grotesque sight, hardened boxing fans looked away. Then, punishment. Police invaded the ring and separated tormentor and victim.

The most brutal fight in boxing's blood-spattered history was over.

Police action had saved Burns. Their presence had saved Johnson. In satisfying his honour, he had fallen. Foul of the spectators. And after 13 cruel rounds there was little Christmas goodwill left in the 20,000 Australians who packed the Rushcutters Bay arena on Boxing Night, 1908.

eventual winner. Pot O'Gold has properly tuned up for this meeting and I feel it will have a very good chance of accounting for this race.

Diana is a fast mover and can be depended upon to make a fight of it.

Hiram C is fast over this distance and it should certainly be well backed.

Highlight, although given top weight of 159 lbs., is not to be counted out of the race.

THIRD RACE

Epsom Handicap (First Section): One Mile.

This race will be contested by Class 6 ponies. Comet, ridden by Mr Albert Lam, came second in the Middlethian Handicap over six furlongs at the 4th Race Meeting, carrying 147 lbs. It will be taken out by Mr Oliveira on Monday and with a weight of another 3 lbs added I think it has a good chance of winning.

The strongest opposition will come from Armand (Mr Phi), although unplaced the last time out.

Then there is How Do I Know (Mr H. C. Woo) to be considered as it is good over this distance.

Veilbridge (Mr Ostroumoff) is another pony to bear in mind on account of its light weight of 159 lbs.

FOURTH RACE

Thurs Handicap: Six Furlongs. This event will be fought out by Class 9 ponies and, judging from past performances, Rous d'or which will be taken out by Mr T. L. Wong, will probably win.

Opposition is likely to come from Harvest Moon (Mr Starr Liu).

Gracelchurch (Mr C. L. Liu) is another pony to watch whilst Bashful Beauty II (Mr Shu) is not bad.

Wild Honey (Mr Kwok) is a fast-improving pony and may conceivably cause an upset.

FIFTH RACE

Prodstown Handicap: From 2-Mile Post. In this race confined to Class 2 ponies, an interesting finish should eventuate.

L'arc Triomphe (Mr C. L. Liu) will undoubtedly be made hot favourite, and on form it should certainly have a good chance of winning.

Caesar (Mr Boleho) is the next best bet, but Beautiful Star (Mr Teal) is not to be ignored as this pony is quite dependable over this distance.

First Edition (Mr Samarcq) and Winning Rush (Mr H. P. Channon) are quite good over this distance and will be near at the finish.

SIXTH RACE

Lesparadstons Handicap: From 1½ Mile Post.

Looking over the entries in this event I don't think there is much doubt that Charleroi (Mr C. L. Liu) will win, unless something out of the ordinary happens.

Hallmark (Mr Samarcq) should have no difficulty in taking second place.

A good struggle should ensue between Sycron (Mr Boycott) and Star-glo (Mr Kwok) for third place.

SEVENTH RACE

Epsom Handicap (Second Section): One Mile.

This race is confined to Class 6 ponies. I like the chances of Attractive Power (Mr Samarcq), Atomic Caesar (Mr Starr Liu), Free Kick (Mr A. Noodt) and Brivisto (Mr Plumby).

Attractive Power won the Folkestone Handicap (First Section) over this distance for Class 7 ponies in 1.50 at the last meeting with Mr H. K. Cheng up in a novice race carrying 152 lbs.

On that performance, it was promoted to this class. As it is now in splendid condition, I think it will just about do it again.

Atomic Caesar and Free Kick are in fine condition at the moment and should have a say at the finish.

Brivisto has been showing improvement in morning gallops and it will probably extend the other starters.

EIGHTH RACE

Nias Bay Handicap: From 1½ Mile Post. Class 7 ponies will run this event and I strongly fancy Metador (Mr Barthropp) as the distance is well suited for this pony although it failed to gain a place at the last meeting over the mile.

Emperor Delight (Mr Chen Foo) is, of course, the danger, and I expect to see it fighting out the finish.

Blossom Time (Mr C. L. Liu) is also in the race, judging from its fourth placing at the last meeting with Mr K. C. Wang up.

Honey Dew (Mr Kwok) is the best outsider.

NINTH RACE

Powerstons Handicap: From 2-Mile Post. The day's programme will be concluded with a race for Class 5 ponies.

The Stranger (Mr Alex Lam) is carrying 154 lbs., less 5 lbs. for a novice jockey. At 147 lbs., which may not be too much of a handicap in view of its second placing in the Muesburgh Handicap (First Section) over the mile at the 4th Race Meeting, it certainly stands a good chance of winning.

Apex (Mr C. L. Liu), which was third in this same race, after being left at the start, should have a say here.

Speedy Roger (Mr Kwok) is also dangerous, but the three who are looking for an upset will be the outsiders.

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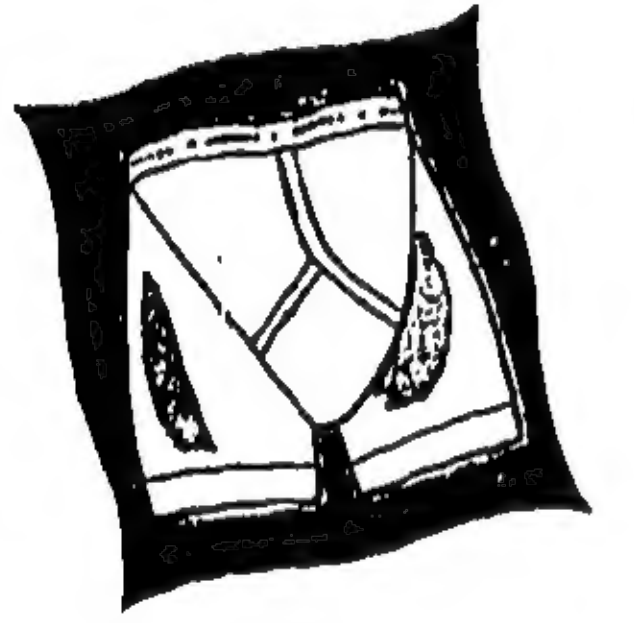
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"GARTHAGE"	6th Feb. 1955	6th Feb. "
"CORFU"	2nd Feb. "	7th Mar. "

Via Southampton, Port Said, Aden, Bombay, Colombo, Penang & Singapore

Homewards	Leaves Hongkong	Due London
"CANTON"	14th Jan. 1955	14th Feb. 1955
"CHUSAN"	2nd Feb. "	2nd March "
"GARTHAGE"	11th Feb. "	14th March "
"CORFU"	11th Mar. "	11th Apr. "

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the BOYS and GIRLS PAGE

CHRISTMAS CUP FINAL



HOW TO PLAY:—

First cut out the black and white discs and the ball. Paste the players on to coins of about one inch in diameter, and the ball on to a smaller coin. Position both teams on the table as shown in the drawing, placing the ball in the centre. The goals should be marked out at each end by match-sticks about six inches apart. Toss for kick-off.

The player who kicks off places an unmarked coin anywhere on the edge of the table, so that a little of the coin is over the edge. Then with his hand he strikes the coin against one of his own players so as to direct that player against the ball. Having done this he

then takes his unmarked coin off the table, leaving it clear for his opponent to have a go. The players take it in turn to play the ball. What practice you will find that you can keep the ball moving towards your opponent's goal at the same time preventing him from getting a clear shot at your goal.

The winner is the side which scores five goals first. After each goal, the players up again as for a kick-off. In the event of one of your players or your unmarked coin striking an opponent, he has a free kick—that is an extra turn. If the ball is knocked off the table, it counts as a free kick against the player who hit it. The ball should be replaced in the centre of the table, and his opponent has two shots. This does not count in the case of the ball going off the table through the goal.

Try This Round Of Brain Teasers

MUSIC MAKERS' BEE:

A good team game to test players' memories of famous names in the world of music is this Bee.

A caller is furnished with a list of musicians (the following, or one similar).

Teams line up opposite each other. The caller reads a surname to player No. 1 on team 1. The player must give the musician's first name or drop out of the game. In this case player No. 1 on team 2 tries to answer.

The game goes on in this way until all of the players on one team have dropped out.

Chas. Wakefield Cadman
Stephen Collins Foster
Victor Herbert
George Gershwin
Richard Strauss
Gaetano Donizetti
Arthur S. Sullivan
Lily Font
Amelita Galli-Curci
Yehudi Menuhin
John Sousa
Giacomo Puccini
Giuseppe Verdi
Richard Wagner
Chas. Saint-Saens

Wolfgang Mozart
Chas. Gounod
Jan Peerce
John Charles Thomas
Rosa Ponselle
Fritz Kreisler

ANIMAL QUIZ

Is it true or false that
1. Porcupines throw their quills at enemies?
2. Dogs and cats cannot distinguish colour?
3. Lions can climb trees?
4. Salmon are never born in the ocean?
5. Male fish often carry fish eggs in their mouths to protect them?

RIDDLES

1. What is black and white and red all over?
2. Round as an apple, busy as a bee, the prettiest thing you ever did see.
3. What has four wheels and draws water?
4. What runs all day and has a bed but never sleeps?
5. Why is this alphabet like a Christmas song? A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z.

(Answers on Page 20)

IDEAS FOR CHRISTMAS COLOUR

Pretty Christmas Decorations...

YOU CAN MAKE

pretty Christmas decorations. You can make a tree and a star from a paper plate. You can make a star from a paper plate. You can make a star from a paper plate.

All you need is a pair of scissors.

Slip the wrapper off the end of the paper tube and begin to cut around and around. Cut as thin a strip as you can. Cut until you have a long, curly strip of paper. Look like a star.

Make a number of these stars when you have time. They make gifts. They are perfect for these pretty decorations. They are perfect for these pretty decorations.

YOUR CHRISTMAS CARDS. This is a job that the postman brings them. The postman brings them. The postman brings them.

Why not display them on a tree and be ready to send all the Christmas cards? Why not display them on a tree and be ready to send all the Christmas cards?

What Do You Know About Christmas?

You can find out in this special crossword for children

ACROSS

- On the first Christmas Day Jesus was born. Where?
- Something we use when we send Christmas greetings.
- This word describes the excited way we look at the Christmas tree.
- Something we do not want to be at Christmas.
- Where was the star shining that led the Wise Men to Jesus?
- A tree—but not a Christmas tree.
- We all hope to do this well on Christmas Day.
- Initials for the man who leads the Christmas party.
- A word to describe the Christmas goose.

DOWN

- The house must look spick and clean for Christmas.
- A number.
- Who brought the shepherds the "good tidings" of the first Christmas Day?
- Another word for songs—Christmas carols, maybe.
- Initials that stand for "for example."
- Where Mary and Joseph took Jesus to escape from Herod.
- While shepherds watched their flocks, we sing; this would be one of the sheep.
- The kind of party the little ones have at Christmas.
- We may put this London postal district on some of our Christmas-card envelopes.
- Cut off the top of the hat in the cracker and this little word is left.

(Solution on Page 20)

The Snow Man Comes Back —Just In Time For Carols

By MAX TRELL

It had been snowing all night. When Knarf and Hand, the shadow-children with the turned-about names, wiped a clean space with their hands in the frosty window, they saw that the fields and the hills were blanketed with white.

Even the limbs of the leafless trees were lined with ridges of snow as though someone had drawn lines with a white pencil.

A Hungry Friend

It was at this moment that Chirpie Sparrow came to the window-sill for his morning bread crumbs for no matter what the weather Chirpie was always hungry for breakfast.

"Open the window! Chirpie called to them, after he had helped himself to half a dozen crumbs. He motioned with his wings to make sure that Knarf and Hand understood what he meant even though they might not have heard him. "But Knarf and Hand both heard and understood Chirpie. They opened the window.

"I've got something very interesting to tell you," he said.

Knarf and Hand wanted to know what this interesting news was. "It's hard to believe," said Chirpie, "but as I was flying across the garden just now, I distinctly heard someone say: 'Hello Chirpie. Don't you say hello to a friend when you see one?'"

"Who was it?" Knarf asked.

Nobody There

"That's just it," said Chirpie. "I couldn't see anyone. I looked up and down the garden, back and forth, to and fro, from here to there... nothing, nobody. All I could see was snow."

"And snow doesn't talk," said Hand.

"Certainly not," agreed Chirpie. "At any rate, snow has never talked to me. But wait till you hear the rest of this story. After I finished looking, I started flying toward here. Then the voice came up again. If you're flying to Knarf and Hand's house, the voice said, 'give them my regards. Tell them I'd love to see them again and that I'll be waiting for them right here!'"

"The goodness knows," Hand exclaimed. "Who could it be?"

"I haven't the slightest idea," said Chirpie. "But whoever it is (and it must be somebody), it's



Chirpie told Hand he distinctly heard someone speak.

waiting out in the garden, somewhere.

Knarf and Hand thought all this so curious that they at once put on their hats and coats and gloves and mufflers and rubbers and went out into the snow-covered garden to see if they could find what or who it was that had spoken to Chirpie Sparrow so mysteriously.

As soon as they reached the garden, Knarf said: "It can't be anybody, Hand, because just look. There isn't a single foot-print in the snow."

Hand turned to Chirpie, who had flown along with them, and was now sitting on a snow-covered rock. "Are you sure, Chirpie, that you really heard someone speaking to you? You sure you didn't make up this story?"

Before Chirpie had a chance to answer, the wind came along and ruffled the face of the smooth snow. Then Knarf and Hand said Chirpie heard a deep voice saying: "I'm here—all right. You just don't recognise me!"

There was something very familiar about the voice. Knarf and Hand knew they had heard it before.

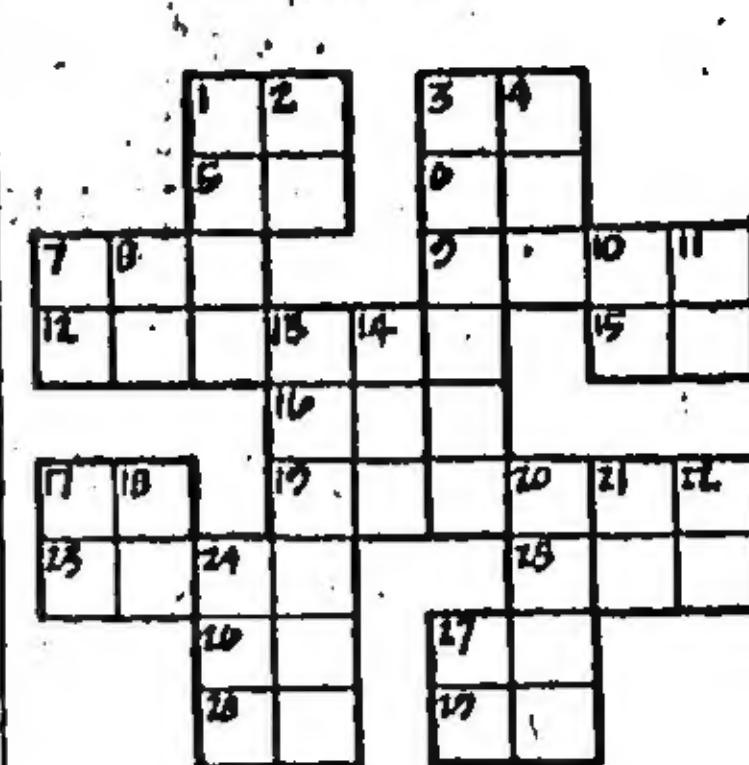
The Voice Again

"Dear me, dear me," said the voice again. "Just to think you've forgotten me because I've been away for a year! Why, I stood right in the middle of this very garden all through last winter—right before Christmas until nearly the beginning of March. I wore a big black hat. I carried a cane. I had stones for eyes and I smoked a corn-cob pipe. On Christmas day, all the children in the neighbourhood gathered around me and we all sang carols. We sang 'Good King Wenceslas' and 'Silent Night' and 'God Rest You Merry Gentlemen. Let Nothing You Dismay'."

"The Snow Man!" Knarf and Hand shouted joyfully. "Yes, that's who it is," the voice said. "I've watched all over this garden for that. I just sat down here, during the night. I have now all the snow on my head and the black hat on my head and the corn-cob pipe in my mouth. I'm the Snow Man."

YOUR PUZZLE CORNER

CROSSWORD



TRIANGLE

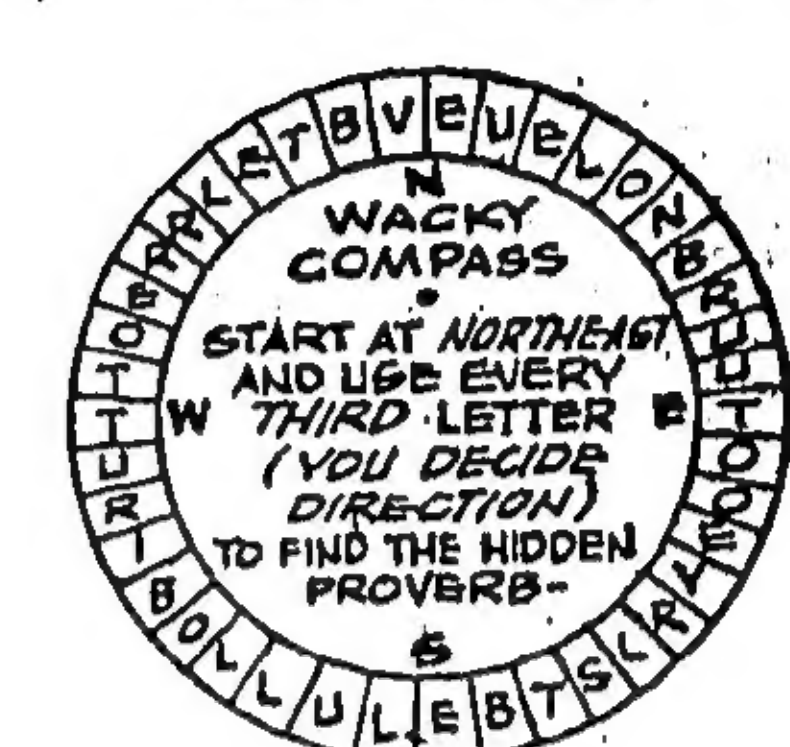
Today's triangle is based on REMORSE. The second word is "from," third "upper limb," fourth "a broad spread," fifth "a sacrificial block," and sixth, "sleeping visions." Finish the triangle.

R
E
M
O
R
S
E

SCRAMBLEGRAM

Add a letter to "harden" and scramble for "pause," repeat procedure for "a fixed look," again for "makes a speech," and finally for "a legislator."

WACKY COMPASS



(Solutions on Page 20)

Teenager Made First Xmas Card

DID you know that the Christmas card, which is so much a part of the holiday season, is just 112 years old this yuletide? It was a teen-ager who thought up the idea. He was a 16-year-old artist named Elgar and he sketched three English scenes with which he was familiar—an skating party, a typical London Christmas dinner and a likeness of Roger de Coverly entertaining his guests. Elgar enclosed his pictures in a white lattice border and left a space at the bottom where a brief message could be written. These Christmas cards were copied and sold in England in 1842.

It was 1874 when Louis Prang began engraving the holiday greeting cards and exporting them from England.

Fastest way to a holiday

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Spend less time flying to spend more time enjoying Australia's countless tourist attractions. QANTAS fast 4-engined airliners fly you from Hong Kong to Sydney in only 2 days. Prompt air connections to Pacific Islands and New Zealand. Enjoy wherever you fly by QANTAS. The advantages of 24 years flying experience. Consult your Travel Agent for full details.

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CHINA MAIL

Sheaffer's
"SNORKEL"

Page 20

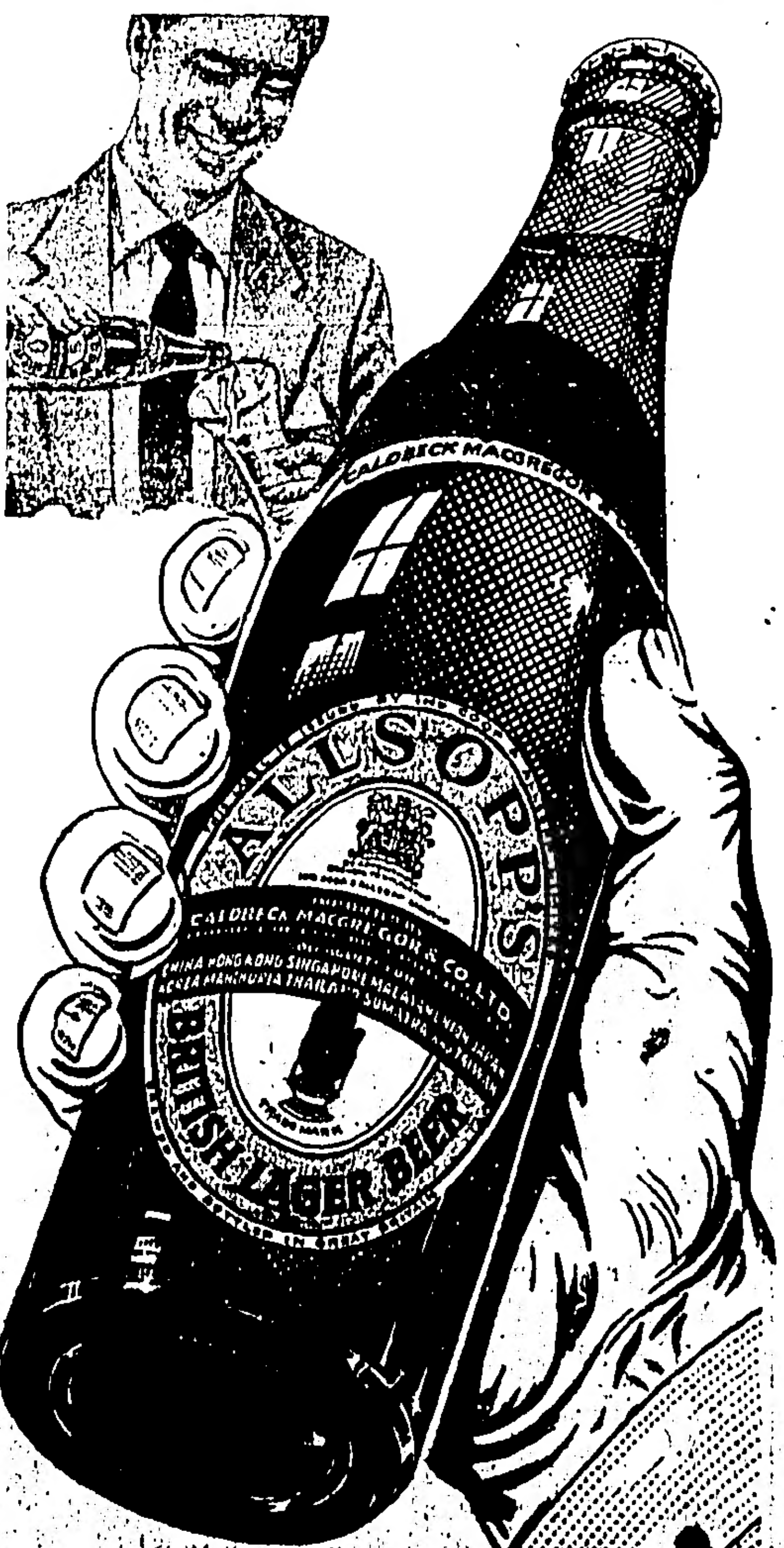
FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24, 1954.

From the Symphony of Fashion

MODE ELITE proudly presents a group of most beautiful NEW YORK STYLE long-torso "PRINCESS STYLE" originals for dinner-cocktail wear. A torso-hugging that minimizes your waist, flares to flattering fullness, scores full skirts with stiffened petticoats or pella. In town only MODE ELITE features exclusively such exciting new group of DISTINCTIVE GOWNS so FESTIVE and GLAMOROUS for your holidays ahead. This is the silhouette that all of Paris, London and New York City is talking about. This is the very silhouette none of the best domestic artists can copy RIGHT. A CORRECT PRINCESS SILHOUETTE WITH LONG TORSO LINE must be "PERFECTLY" adapted from a costly Paris couture model which shows "CORRECT" full dimensional lines otherwise it makes you look VULGAR and LACK OF GOOD TASTES. To make you look at your "BEST" get your lastword princess style originals from MODE ELITE who has brought them here by air directly from top New York Couturiers so that you, for your holiday afternoons and evenings ahead, could be as well attired in "THIS-MINUTE APPAREL" as the NEW YORK CITY'S sophisticated gentlemen and misses do. Also just air-delivered a most beautiful collection of large-sized "DISTINCTIVE GOWNS" for dinner-cocktail wear for young mothers in town and those young at heart. Absolutely one of a style made of pure silk and chiffons with luxurious details. THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GOWNS MODE ELITE HAS EVER FLOWN HERE TO SERVE THE DISCERNING FASHION REQUIREMENTS OF ARISTOCRATIC GENTLEWOMEN WHOSE SIZES FROM 16 TO 20 or 14½ to 20½. COME... SEE THEM AT MODE ELITE.

MODE ELITE 22 Queen's Road, C. Tel. 24052.

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ALLSOPP'S
BRITISH LAGER BEER

ALLSOPP'S BREWERY & ICE FACTORY, LTD.

MR HAMMARSKJOLD'S VISIT TO CHINA

American Officials Working To Meet Any Situation

Washington, Dec. 23.

United States officials are busy on plans of action to meet either success or failure of Mr Dag Hammarskjold's attempt to effect the release of 11 United States airmen held by Communist China.

A State Department official said today: "We are watching Mr Hammarskjold's efforts with hope but not over optimism. In the meantime we are going to be close-lipped, so that we say nothing to compromise his negotiations with Mr Mao Tse-tung."

Mr Hammarskjold, Secretary-General of the United Nations, will fly to Asia in the first week of January in a dramatic bid to end the captivity of the 11 airmen for which the United Nations has condemned China.

Although American intentions concerning an agreement for the release of the 11 airmen were officially secret, it was common talk among diplomats here that the United States would be willing to consider "proposals" from China with the major reservation that such proposals must not wander too far from the basic issues involved.

THE REASON

It was noted that the reason given by the State Department for the detention of the 35 Chinese students was tied directly to the state of emergency, which has continued though the Korean war came to an end more than a year ago.

The students, according to an official spokesman, were being held under the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952.

This Act says: "When the state is at war or during the existence of a national emergency proclaimed by the President... and the President shall find that the interests of the United States require that restrictions and prohibitions be imposed on the departure of persons from and their entry into the United States... it shall be unless otherwise ordered by the President or Congress unlawful for any alien to de-

part from or enter or attempt to depart from or enter the United States."

KNOWLEDGE GAINED

In short the United States position is that under the Korean emergency, the specialized knowledge gained here by the students would be detrimental to the security of the United States if they returned to China.

If the state of emergency were ended, these conditions would not apply, it was argued.

A White House spokesman, Mr Murry Snyder, said today that a presidential proclamation, ending the Korean war emergency was "now in the works."

The basic United States contention concerning the 11 airmen held by China has been that they were prisoners of war, captured while in uniform and that China was breaking international law by detaining them.

China's stated reason for holding the airmen was that they were convicted of spying, were captured by Chinese civil authorities in Chinese territory and therefore were not prisoners of war.

The very fact that China has agreed to Mr Hammarskjold's visit to Peking to discuss "pertinent questions" was seen here as an indication that the Peking Government felt it could use the incident as further "cold war" ammunition against the United States.

But it was hoped by officials—if side issues were dragged into the bargaining for the release of the 11 airmen—that another 25 American civilians and 15 additional airmen known to be imprisoned by China might also be freed.

PRIVATE BELIEF

Officials expressed the private belief that if the negotiations were restricted to repatriation of detained airmen, the United States would give close attention to whatever China had to say.

But on the precept that the incident involved justice and

not barter, the United States would be unwilling to enter into complicated bargaining which might include Formosa, trade sanctions and other political questions.—Reuter.

Yugoslavia Given Time To Pay

Belgrade, Dec. 23.

Yugoslavia has been given up to the year of 1952 to repay her debt to Great Britain.

The debt amounting to £17,000,000 had originally been set to be paid between the years 1954 to 1958.

Great Britain has also consented to reduce the interest on the loans. In common with most of Yugoslavia's other creditor countries, Britain took into account that it would be extremely difficult for Yugoslavia to make heavy payments at a time when she was faced with grave economic problems, particularly the failure of crops.—France-Press.

Ex-Champion Boxer Dies

Montreal, Dec. 23.

Al Foreman, 49, former British Empire lightweight champion, died of a heart attack today in the western division of the Montreal General Hospital.

Foreman, who fought 328 bouts during his 16-year ring career, won fame in the rings of Chicago, Vancouver, Washington, Paris and Australia. He lost only 10 bouts and 10 others were draws.

The little ex-boxer was estimated to have earned \$500,000 during his ring career. During the war he served overseas with the RCAF and took part in 37 sorties, including the first raid on Adolf Hitler's "Eagle's Nest"—United Press.

State Owned 'Uncles'

Rangoon, Dec. 23.

The Burmese Government is to take over all pawnshops in Rangoon when the present licenses expire in 1956. All 27 pawnshops in the city are Chinese-owned.

There are already state-run pawnshops in many parts of Burma, operating on the lines of those in Indonesia.—Reuter.

OVER THE BORDER TO FREEDOM

Vienna, Dec. 23.

A Yugoslav soldier, a Hungarian electrician and a Bulgarian plumber yesterday crossed the Yugoslav frontier into Austria and asked for asylum in that country.

The Yugoslav soldier crossed the frontier but without arms and told the Austrian authorities that he left his country because of the economic conditions prevailing there and because of the bad treatment in the army.

The Hungarian electrician and the Bulgarian plumber first crossed over into Yugoslavia and hid there for a few days. They then decided to leave for Austria.—France-Press.

BOYS AND GIRLS PAGE SOLUTIONS

CROSSWORD:

ACROSS: 1. PLEA, 2. EKEG, 3. ME, 4. RVE, 5. REDACT, 6. NOR, 7. ES, 8. NE.

BEHEADINGS: Bear, pear, ear, or.

TRIANGLE:

WACKY COMPASS: Never trouble trouble 'til trouble troubles you.

ANIMAL QUIZ: 1-False, the quills are loose and if the porcupine is touched the quills are driven into the attacker's skin. 2-True. 3-False, although the lion belongs to the cat family it cannot climb. 4-True, the salmon go up rivers to spawn. 5-True.

RIDDLE ANSWERS: 1-An embarrassed zebra. 2-Old-style watch. 3-A garage truck. 4-A river. 5-No L (Noel).

CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS CROSSWORD—Across: 1. Star, 2. Pet, 3. Angel, 4. Star, 5. East, 6. Elm, 7. M.C. (Master of Ceremony), 8. Fat, 9. Down, 10. Span, 11. Ten, 12. Angel, 13. Lay, 14. E.C. (Egypt), 15. Ram, 16. Tea, 17. E.C. (E.C.), 18. At.

DARTWORDS SOLUTION

HALL: Albert Victoria Plum Horner Corner Corner Corner Crown Brown Study Nature Mature Blue Flirt Tied Drawn Sweep Chimney Stack Rick Brick Drop Prop Horse Horse Cart Wain Wain Barn Dance Pace Face Fact Matter Patter Potter Wheel Heel Head Cars Stars Crow Brow Eye Eye Adam Apple CHARLOTTE.



EXECUTORS and TRUSTEES for the COLONY and the FAR EAST

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI BANK LIMITED (TRUSTEE) LIMITED
The Trustee Company of The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Hong Kong

NOTICE

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF HONG KONG PROBATE JURISDICTION

In the Goods of Captain ROBERT WILLIAM BATEMAN, D.S.C. late of Gloucester Hotel, Victoria, in the Colony of Hong Kong, Merchant Executive, deceased.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Court has, by virtue of Section 55 (1) of the Probate and Administration Ordinance (Chapter 10) made an Order limiting the time for creditors and other persons claiming against the above estate to the 12th day of January, 1955.

All creditors and others are accordingly hereby required to send their claims to the undersigned on or before that date.

Dated the 16th day of December, 1954.

Solicitors for the Administrators, LO AND LO, Queen's Building, Hong Kong.

NOTICE

HONG KONG SOCIETY FOR THE PREVENTION OF CRUELTY TO ANIMALS

The Office of the Society is situated at Beaconsfield Arcade, Queen's Road Central, Hong Kong.

Members and the Public can contact an Official of the Society by dialling 37870 by day and 37594 by night.

Subscription and Donation should be sent to—

A. G. GARDNER, Esq., Hong Kong Electric Co., Ltd., P. O. Building, Hong Kong.

HONGKONG COUNCIL OF SOCIAL SERVICE



To co-ordinate the activities of voluntary welfare organizations and to promote the knowledge and practice of social welfare work.

Information will be gladly supplied by the Secretary, Office: 603 China Building, Tel. 5106.

CHURCH NOTICES

ST. PETER'S CHURCH The Missions to Seamen, 44 Gloucester Road, Tel. 7151.
8.00 a.m. Holy Communion.
7.00 p.m. Evening Service.
(Other services arranged at any time by request.)



HONGKONG PUBLISHED DAILY (AFTERNOON)
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PERSONAL Mr Han Kam and Lady Lo take this opportunity to wish all their relatives and friends a happy and prosperous New Year, and to reciprocate all kind wishes received. They hope they may be availed for not sending out the individual greetings.

CARS FOR SALE

1954 Vauxhall 1953 model. Excellent condition. One European owner. Leaving the Colony. Offered for sale. Appointment with Box 50, "China Mail."

FOR SALE

THREE GRAMOPHONES—Good condition. Nearly new. \$200.00. Lowest offer. Sale only because of owner's departure from Colony. Box 100 "China Mail."

SHIRAZ MADE CHINA'S most up to date. Also made in Hong Kong. At Shanghai. Box 100 "China Mail."

MODEL AEROPLANES, Toys, bicycles, cards, etc. at Wholesale prices, please visit Juvenile Store, 10 Nathan Road, opposite to Film Theatre.

WANTED: KNOWN

MORFAT WHIPPING for all dairy occasions. At a most reasonable price. 11 oz. tin \$1.50, 16 oz. tin \$2.00. Also Morfat 20 oz. tin \$2.50. 11 oz. tin \$1.50. Obtainable at all grocers.

LAURENCE PACKING CONTRACTOR for personal household and effects. Packing, crating, forwarding, insurance, etc. at reasonable rates. 728 Kennedy Road, Tel. 2174.

MUSICAL

MAYFAIR MUSIC COMPANY, 12, China Lung Street, Central, Hong Kong. Specialized in new and reconditioned upright and grand pianos, organs, harps, recording instruments, piano tuning and general repairs. Fresh stocks of LP records, including classical, popular and Christmas Carols.

PETER MOK HIM YICK HONG MACAO MANUFACTURERS REPRESENTATIVE Agent for AUSTIN CARS AND TRUCKS

China Mail Distributor 33 RUA V.P. ARCOB V.P. 2508 CABLES: PETER MACAO Agencies limited.

Santa Arrested In New York

New York, Dec. 23.

A street corner Santa Claus burst into ribald song in Times Square today and lost his Santa Claus suit in a Police Station.

But the volunteer organization for which he was ringing a collection bell said that they consider re-hiring next year the 80-year-old man, whose own white hair flows over his collar. The Police placed no charge against him.

The Police were notified by telephone that the Santa, somewhat the worse for Christmas cheer, was using bad language and singing dirty songs at the corner of 7th Avenue and 50th Street. When a policeman arrived, a large crowd had gathered. The Police tried a friendly approach, but Santa laughed at them. They gave up and loaded

Santa and his imitation chimney into a patrol car. The crowd cheered. The Police car made a U-turn, then the back door flew open and the chimney fell into the street, holding up traffic and laughing pedestrians for minutes.

STARTED AGAIN Santa started singing again. The crowd cheered. The Police car made a U-turn, then the back door flew open and the chimney fell into the street, holding up traffic and laughing pedestrians for minutes. Captain Anthony Sosa of the Volunteers of America said that this was the first time Santa had been arrested in 10 years.

A Merry Christmas to you all